

Progress review criteria for awarding ECTS credits in the PhD thesis module (180 ECTS) – Doctoral Studies Council of Social Sciences

	Component of the PhD thesis module	PhD thesis (180 ECTS credits in total)				Submission requirements	Guidelines for assessment	Observations
		Monograph		Article-based dissertation				
		Minimum required	Maximum credits	Minimum required	Maximum credits			
	TOTAL ECTS credits:	132	180	132	180			
1	Student's research plan which must cover the entire period of doctoral studies and include a methodology plan for the PhD thesis	6	10	6	10	The student submits it in written form together with the supervisor's endorsement and estimation of ECTS credits. To be presented and defended either at the doctoral seminar or at the progress review meeting	The progress review committee assesses the component and awards ECTS credits on the basis of the supervisor's assessment.	The student's research plan for the PhD thesis is more nuanced and fully developed than the outline (research plan project) submitted by the student before admission.
2	An overview of the literature to be used as the theoretical foundation of the PhD thesis	0	10	0	10	The student submits in written form the list of analysed books and most followed journals together with the supervisor's endorsement and estimation of ECTS credits.	The progress review committee assesses the component and awards ECTS credits on the basis of the supervisor's assessment	The student submits in written form summaries/overviews that synthesize the materials used.
3	Development of the research instruments and the methodological principles for the PhD study and collecting the data for the PhD thesis	0	20	0	20	The student submits it in written form together with the supervisor's endorsement and estimation of ECTS credits. To be presented and defended either at the doctoral seminar or at the progress review meeting.	The progress review committee assesses the component and awards ECTS credits on the basis of the supervisor's assessment: max 10 ECTS credits for development of the research instruments and the methodological principles for the PhD study and max 10 ECTS credits for collecting the data for the PhD thesis	
4	Article in ETIS (Estonian Research Information System) categories 1.1, 1.2 or 3.1 accepted for publication (constituting a part of the dissertation if the dissertation is article-based) – up to 30 ECTS credits	30	30	90	120	The student submits a copy of the article.	The text of the article reviewed by the supervisor: up to 10 ECTS credits; the article in 'submitted' status: up to 20 ECTS credits – ECTS credits awarded earlier; 'under review' status + 5 ECTS credits; 'finally accepted' status + 5 ECTS credits. In total, depending on the article's publishing status, 30 ECTS credits may be awarded cumulatively.	
5	Chapter/division of a PhD thesis in the monograph format	80	120	0	0	The student submits the text of the chapter of the monograph	The text of the chapter/division of the PhD thesis (at least 20 pages) reviewed by the supervisor: up to 20 ECTS credits. Chapter/division presented and reviewed at the doctoral seminar: + 10 ECTS credits. In total, for one chapter of a PhD thesis in the monograph format 30 ECTS credits may be awarded cumulatively.	An unreviewed chapter of a monograph is deemed to be equal to an article in the 'submitted' status in the case of an article-based dissertation
6	Analytical overview of the PhD thesis	0	0	20	30	The student submits it in written form together with the supervisor's endorsement and an estimation of ECTS credits.		
7	Other research publication (the lowest ETIS category)	0	15	0	15	The student submits a copy of the article.	One published research publication equals up to 5 ECTS credits, depending on the ETIS category of the publication.	In the case of a PhD thesis in the monograph format, the other research publications must be related to the topic of the PhD thesis in a minimum required amount of ECTS credits
8	Conference presentation	6	15	6	15	The student submits a copy of the conference programme and the abstract of the presentation or a copy of the poster presentation	Oral presentation at an international conference: 3-5 ECTS credits. Poster presentation at an international conference: 2-3 ECTS credits. Presentation or poster presentation at an Estonian conference: 2 ECTS credits.	The conference presentation includes the publication of the abstract (as a rule, the submission of an abstract is required before the presentation can be accepted). The publication of the full text as a separate paper is taken into account separately in the category of other research publications
9	Presentation at the doctoral seminar	0	10	0	10	The student submits the text of the presentation and/or slides which have been orally presented at the doctoral seminar	2-3 ECTS credits	Doctoral seminars which are not considered as core or individual courses in the doctoral programme
10	Reviewing a presentation at the doctoral seminar					1-2 ECTS credits	Reviews which are not considered as core or individual courses in the doctoral programme	
11	Participation or speaking at seminars related to the student's specialism outside the university					1-2 ECTS credits		
12	Preliminary examination before final defence	5	5	5	5	Pursuant to Regulations for Doctoral Studies and Defence of PhD Theses		If the student is required to retake the preliminary examination next year, less than 5 ECTS credits will be awarded
13	Final defence	5	5	5	5	Pursuant to Regulations for Doctoral Studies and Defence of PhD Theses		The progress review committee must take into account that the amount of ECTS credits cumulatively awarded to the student may not exceed 175 ECTS credits before the final defence

* The minimum and maximum values cover the entire period of doctoral studies. The university monitors the student's credits both in terms of credits awarded in a year and credits awarded cumulatively throughout the entire study period. The sum of the minimum values of components is smaller than the total credits to be awarded for the PhD thesis (180 ECTS credits), since one component may be at its minimum value, but the others may be at their maximum value at the same time.