



DOCTORAL CANDIDATES' TRANSITION TO THE NEW DEGREE SYSTEM 1.8.2017 - 31.7.2020

Guidelines for LUOVA doctoral candidates

According to the Rector's Decision (No 22/2016) doctoral programmes are degree programmes which will have degree requirements of their own. The faculty responsible for the doctoral programme has approved the programme's new degree requirements and curriculum and those will become valid from 1.8.2017. The rector has decided on the general principles for the transition period of the education reform (Decision No 23/2016).

General transition guidelines:

All doctoral candidates must transfer to the new degree system if they do not complete their degree before 31.7.2020. During the preceding transition period (1.8.2017 – 31.7.2020) they can choose from the following options:

- 1) They can continue to study according to the old degree requirements, i.e., 60 ECTS credits and faculty and/or major based guidelines until 31.7.2020.

- 2) They can transfer to the new degree system and begin to study according to the new degree requirements, in which case it should be noted that:
 - The transfer to the new degree system can be done at any time during the transition period, but once it is done, it is not possible to return to the old system.
 - In the new degree system, 40 ECTS credits will be required in addition to the doctoral thesis. These credits are distributed between discipline-specific studies (30 credits) and general competence studies (10 credits).
 - The composition of discipline-specific studies differ between doctoral programmes, while the required general competence studies are doctoral school specific.
 - An obligatory course of research ethics must be included in the discipline-specific studies.
 - In the new degree system studies completed more than 10 years earlier cannot be included in a doctoral degree.
 - Studies included in a Master's degree which exceed its minimum scope cannot be included in a doctoral degree.
 - In the new degree system there might be more obligatory courses or more detailed rules about minimum and maximum amount of credits that can be included in certain study modules.
 - If a doctoral candidate is nearing the end of his/her thesis work and intends to transfer to the new system, the transfer must be completed before the pre-examination process starts.
 - Once the transition period ends on 31.7.2020 all doctoral candidates will be transferred to the new degree system.
 - All new doctoral candidates granted the right to pursue post-graduate studies after 1.8.2017 will use the new system of 40 ECTS credits.