

## Information for PHD students on structural changes

Structural changes have affected deeply the doctoral education in Hungary, therefore, we would like to draw your kind attention to the following information that might be useful for you when applying for Stipendium Hungaricum (SH) scholarship or for those pursuing their doctoral studies within the framework of SH programme.

The change in the regulations entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016; therefore, different rules apply to students who started their studies before the 2016/2017 academic year (3-year study programme) and those who started their studies in or after the 2016/2017 academic year (2+2-year study programme).

**The main differences between the two study programmes are as follows:**

<b>Studies started</b>	<b>Before the 2016/2017 academic year</b>	<b>In or after the 2016/2017 academic year</b>
Duration of studies	5 years (10 semesters), divided into two separate phase: 3 years (study period) + 2 years (research and dissertation writing, as a doctoral candidate)	4 years (8 semesters), divided into two separate phase: 2 years (study period) + 2 years (research and thesis submission)
Credits	180	240
Scholarship	during the study period: 100.000.- HUF/month + accommodation allowance (medical insurance organised by the university)	1st period (2 years): 140.00.- HUF/month + accommodation allowance (medical insurance organised by the university)  2nd period (2 years): 180.000.- HUF/month + accommodation allowance (medical insurance organised by the university)
Extension of scholarship	The study period cannot be extended; however, the scholarship can be extended by two semesters during the doctoral candidate period (see details below).	The study period cannot be extended in accordance with the regulations of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme.

### **For PhD students who started their studies before the 2016/2017 academic year**

For students who started their studies before the 2016/2017 academic year, the **doctoral studies consist of two main parts**. The **first stage** – the study period – lasts for 3 years (6 semesters). During this period, the student is required to acquire 180 credits. Credits are awarded for course attendance, publications, conference presentations etc., in accordance with the institutional regulations of the doctoral school. At the end of the study period and upon the completion of 180 credits, the student receives a pre-degree certificate stating that all course-units have been completed. With the issuance of the certificate, the study period ends and the student status of the scholarship holder terminates.

After the completion of the study period, the student is entitled to apply for the **second stage**, where the doctoral thesis is submitted and doctoral title is earned. The application criteria may differ in different doctoral schools; however, they usually consist of an oral entrance exam and the examination of a submitted detailed research plan. In case the applicant is admitted to the next phase, s/he becomes a **doctoral candidate** and is obliged to earn his/her doctoral title within a given period specified by the doctoral school (usually 2 years).

With a successful admittance to the second stage of the doctoral process, the doctoral candidate has to apply for a comprehensive exam on the research topic of the candidate. The candidate can only submit his/her doctoral thesis after the successful completion of the comprehensive exam.

After the successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the candidate can apply to the defence of his/her thesis; in many of the Hungarian doctoral schools, a mock defence is also compulsory part of the doctoral process.

The defence of the thesis is the final stage of the doctoral process. After the candidate has successfully defended his/her thesis, a certificate of the completion of the doctoral process is issued stating that she/he had successfully completed all the requirements of the doctoral title. Please note that this certificate itself is not equal to the doctoral title – the PhD title is awarded by the Doctoral and Habilitation Committee of the University (the results of successful defences are submitted to the committee by the doctoral schools and the titles are issued at the steering committee event of the board).

In accordance with the relevant regulations of the Hungarian National Law on higher education, within the framework of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme, scholarship holders must finish their study period within 3 years (6 semesters). During this period, the student is entitled to request passive semesters (in line with the institutional regulations), but the extension of the study period as a scholarship holder is not possible. In case the scholarship holder does not finish the study period by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, his/her scholarship holder status terminates.

After the successful completion of the study period by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, **the scholarship holder is entitled to extend his/her scholarship by 2 consecutive semesters as a doctoral candidate**. To be entitled for the extension of the scholarship holder status, the doctoral candidate must continue his/her doctoral process consecutively after the completion of the study period; in addition, s/he must remain at his/her original host institution as a doctoral candidate and submit a request for extension in accordance with the rules and regulations of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme to Tempus Public Foundation. In case the request for extension is accepted, the scholarship holder will be entitled to get the same allowances as during the previous study period (i.e.: monthly stipend, accomodation contribution and insurance organised by the university). Doctoral candidate scholarship holders are not students; therefore, they are not entitled for a student card and social security services.

### **For PhD students who had started their studies in / after the 2016/2017 academic year**

The study programme is divided into 2 phases: the **study period (2 years)** and the **research and thesis submission (2 years)**. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, the student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis.

At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> part – the study period – the student is obliged to take a complex comprehensive exam. **The student can only enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the study programme upon the successful completion of the complex exam.** In case of failure at the complex exam, according to the Hungarian National Law on higher education, the student is entitled to apply for the examination again in the same semester of the failed attempt.

**In case the second attempt results in failure, the study period of the student terminates, and his/her scholarship holder status ceases.**

Upon the successful completion of the complex exam, the student enters the second phase of the study programme. During the second phase, the student must conduct his/her research activity and complete and submit his/her thesis for defence.

The defence of the thesis is the final stage of the doctoral process; after the candidate has successfully defended his/her thesis, a certificate of the completion of the doctoral process is issued stating that s/he had successfully fulfilled all the requirements of the doctoral title. Please note that this certificate itself is not equal to the doctoral title – the PhD title awarded by the Doctoral and Habilitation Committee of the University (the results of successful defences are submitted to the committee by the doctoral schools and the titles are issued at the steering committee event of the board).

### **Further information**

Please note that the above-listed aspects are **only the general guidelines** of the doctoral education Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holders take part in based on the regulations of the Hungarian National Law on higher education.

The specific rules and regulations of each doctoral study programme is set out by the doctoral schools of higher education institutions and they may vary depending on the study field and other internal institutional regulations.

**Applicants and scholarship holders are strongly advised to contact their respective doctoral school for detailed information on their studies** (specific requirements, milestones, schedule etc.)

### **Contact:**

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