

## **Additional conditions for awarding doctoral degrees in the Faculty of Medicine**

Adopted based on clause 98 of the Regulations for Doctoral Studies, adopted by the University of Tartu senate regulation no. 8 of 27 May 2022 and amended by regulation no. 1 of 1 March 2024.

### **I. General principles**

1. In the Faculty of Medicine, doctoral degrees are awarded based on the Regulations for Doctoral Studies (“regulations”) and the following conditions.
2. The provisions of these conditions referring to doctoral programmes also apply to doctoral curricula opened before the 2022/2023 academic year.

### **II. Requirements for doctoral theses**

3. Under clause 110 of the regulations, the doctoral candidate must be the lead or sole author of at least one research publication. According to good practice and to ensure the quality of the doctoral thesis and achieve the learning outcomes of doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate must be the lead or sole author of at least two research publications.
4. An article may generally be used in one doctoral thesis of the same specialisation. By a reasoned decision, the council may allow cross-publishing in several doctoral theses if different aspects of the article are used in the doctoral theses.
5. Co-authors must be informed of the use of the research in the doctoral thesis. If the doctoral student wants to be the first to publish the joint article in the doctoral thesis, the written consent of all co-authors must be obtained.
6. In addition to the required three scientific publications, articles published in *Eesti Arst*, the journal of the Estonian Medical Association, may also be included in the doctoral thesis.
7. The American Psychological Association (APA) referencing system is used in doctoral theses defended in the Faculty of Medicine.

### **III. Allowing a doctoral thesis to be defended**

8. In the Faculty of Medicine, a staff member of the dean’s office will check the completion of the doctoral programme before the thesis is submitted for defence.
9. The doctoral candidate must ensure that all publications of the doctoral thesis have been entered into the Estonian Research Information System and are approved there before the documents specified in clause 122 of the regulations are submitted to the council.
10. The doctoral candidate submits the documents specified in clause 122 of the regulations to the council secretary. The doctoral candidate must attach to the documents the proposal of the supervisor(s) for appointing pre-reviewer(s) and opponent(s). If necessary, a questionnaire for the prevention of conflict of interest, completed by the supervisor, must be added to appoint an opponent or peer reviewer of the doctoral thesis.

11. The application to allow the doctoral thesis to be defended, referred to in clause 122.1 of the regulations, must include, besides the exact name of the doctoral degree applied for, the title of the doctoral thesis in Estonian and English.
12. Before allowing the doctoral thesis to be defended, the council sends the doctoral thesis for peer review to at least two reviewers or, in the specialisation of Exercise and Sport Sciences, at least one reviewer. A peer reviewer from outside Estonia may also be a future opponent. In the specialisation of Exercise and Sport Sciences, after the peer review, a public preliminary defence of the doctoral thesis is held or a closed preliminary defence if the doctoral thesis contains a state secret, trade secret, or information not subject to publication due to personal data protection requirements or other classified information.
13. The council secretary or a person designated by the council chair will send the doctoral thesis to peer reviewer(s).
14. The minimum time granted for peer review is three weeks, but it may be longer if significant changes to the thesis are required. During the peer review period, active communication between the reviewer and the doctoral candidate is recommended to make any necessary changes before the thesis is allowed for the defence.
15. The review(s) are sent to the council secretary or a person appointed by the council chair.
16. The supervisor in charge agrees on the time of the defence meeting with the opponent before the thesis is allowed to be defended.
17. The invitation is sent to the opponent by the council secretary or a person appointed by the council chair.
18. After being allowed to the defence, the doctoral candidate submits an electronic version of the doctoral thesis to the council and the number of paper copies specified by the council, based on clause 123 of the regulations, no later than two weeks before the defence.

#### **IV. Defence meeting**

19. The chair of the defence meeting ensures that the defence meeting is duly organised, gives the floor to those who wish to speak, and observes the good practice of doctoral studies. In the specialisations of Medicine, Pharmacy and Neurosciences, the defence meeting is chaired by the council chair, a council member, or an additional member appointed by the chair. In the specialisation of Exercise and Sport Sciences, the council chair is the chair of the defence meeting. If the council chair cannot chair the meeting due to a conflict of interests, the chair is appointed by the council's decision.
20. According to the provisions of clause 148.1 of the regulations, the chair of the meeting or the scientific secretary of the council introduces the doctoral candidate.
21. The presentation by the doctoral candidate (*lectio praecursoria*), referred to in clause 148.2 of the regulations, takes about 20 minutes.
22. The recommended length of the academic discussion between the doctoral candidate and the opponent(s) specified in clause 148.4 of the regulations is 60–90 minutes.
23. After an academic discussion with council members and the audience, referred to in clause 148.5 of the regulations, the supervisor(s) may take the floor.

24. The final remarks by the doctoral candidate, referred to in clause 148.8 of the regulations, take about 5 minutes.

25. The file with a recording of the defence meeting is stored on the university server for at least one year. Video recording of the defence meeting is preferred.