



UNIwersytet
Warszawski



Samorząd Doktorantów
UNIwersytetu Warszawskiego

BASIC FACT SHEET FOR FOREIGN DOCTORAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

On October 1, 2018 a new Higher Education and Science Act came into force. It will change the structure of the University of Warsaw by introducing a new system of doctoral education.

Here is what you need to know:

How will I be affected?

The Act will introduce new rules concerning finalising your dissertation process and finishing your studies. There are a few **important deadlines** to remember:

30.04.2019 – the last day you can start your PhD process (“Przewód doktorski”) in accordance with the old rules or finish your degree according to the old (prior to October 1, 2018) system of scientific disciplines.

From 01.05.2019 to 30.09.2019 – a period during which you will not be able to **start** your dissertation process either according to the old rules or new rules. However, during this period those who started their PhD process before 30.04.2019 can still defend their PhD.

30.09.2019 – until this date it is possible to **finish** your degree before the Faculty’s Council - only for those who started their PhD process before 30.04.2019.

01.10.2019 – from this day on you will be able to start your PhD process in accordance with the new rules. Moreover, from this moment on the doctoral title will be conferred by the Discipline Council (new body introduced by the University’s Senate) and not your Faculty’s Council. Details on the composition of the Discipline Councils and the procedure itself have not been announced yet.

31.12.2021 – all open PhD processes initiated in accordance with the old rules have to be finalised up to this date or will be closed automatically. It is still possible to finish your degree through starting PhD process in accordance with the new rules.

31.12.2023 – all doctoral candidates who started their PhD process in accordance with the old rules have to complete their studies by this date.

What is the difference between the old and the new rules concerning the dissertation?

Old rules:

- The procedure is officially called “przewód doktorski”
- Obligatory doctoral examinations
- A minimum of two reviewers

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- Publications in academic journals present on the Minister of Higher Education's List of Academic Journals A, B or C (the list was abolished by the introduction of the Higher Education and Science Act)
- Your PhD title will be conferred according to the new scientific disciplines list (if degree procedure is finished **after 30.04.2019**). Please find details below (Polish only):

<https://konstytucjadlanauki.gov.pl//content/uploads/2018/09/nowy-podzia-dyscyplin-tabela.pdf>

New rules:

- The procedure is officially called "postępowanie w sprawie nadania stopnia doktora"
- No obligatory doctoral examination
- An obligatory verification of the PRK (Polska Rama Kwalifikacji) level 8th effects – no information on this subject is available at the moment
- A minimum of three reviewers
- Publications in academic journals present on the New Minister of Higher Education's List of Academic Journals (the list will be published by June 2019) or a book/a book chapter published by publisher present on the Minister of Higher Education's List of Academic Publishers:
http://www.bip.nauka.gov.pl/g2/oryginal/2019_01/1c2912c1f994b8d37a305fac21b8ab54.pdf
- Your PhD title will be conferred according to the new scientific disciplines list

Will the scholarship system change?

Nothing changes in the way the Doctoral scholarship (Stypendium doktoranckie) and the Increase in doctoral scholarship (Zwiększenie stypendium doktoranckiego) are granted. The criteria for the Scholarship for the best doctoral students (Stypendium dla najlepszych doktorantów) will change, but there are no definitive guidelines at the moment.

How will the new doctoral education system be organised?

Doctoral studies will be organised by institutions called Doctoral Schools (Szkoły Doktorskie). There will be at least four such schools at the University of Warsaw: the Doctoral School of Humanities, the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences, and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. Each of them will probably accept 100 new PhD students per year with the exception of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School which is expected to accept approximately 20 students a year.



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How will studying in those new doctoral schools be different from the current system?

Doctoral Schools will, in general, offer a more interdisciplinary and research-oriented program. New doctoral students will have a much bigger impact on their respective study programme and each and every PhD student, who have not been granted doctoral title before, will receive a Doctoral scholarship. However, new doctoral students will also be subjected to a mid-term evaluation of their progress and only after having successfully passed it, will they be able to continue their studies. Please note that they will not have access to current forms of scholarships.

Can I transfer to one of these new doctoral schools?

It is not possible to be transferred from current doctoral studies to new Doctoral Schools, but you will be able to take part in the recruitment process. A detailed recruitment procedure will be released at a later date. Studies in Doctoral Schools will start in October 2019.

Where can I find additional information?

Please follow PhD Students' Union's Facebook fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/samorzad.doktorantow.uw/> and regularly visit the website <http://www.doktoranci.uw.edu.pl/>.

You can also contact the University of Warsaw PhD Students' Union (Samorząd Doktorantów Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego) directly at doktoranci@samorzad.uw.edu.pl.