



**REGULATIONS
ON THE DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME IN
KINESIOLOGY**

Split, 2025

Pursuant to Articles 24 and 57 of the Statute of the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split, the Faculty Council, at its session held on 19 February 2025, adopted the following

REGULATIONS on the Doctoral Study Programme in Kinesiology

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Subject of Regulation

Article 1

- (1) These Regulations govern the organization and implementation of the Doctoral Study Programme in Kinesiology (hereinafter: Doctoral Study), the forms and duration of study, the rights and obligations of students and supervisors, the procedure for the submission, evaluation, and defense of the doctoral dissertation, as well as other matters of importance for the organization and implementation of the Doctoral Study conducted at the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split (hereinafter: the Faculty).
- (2) Terms used in these Regulations that have gendered forms, whether in the masculine or feminine, shall be understood as applying equally to both genders.

1.2 Organization of the Doctoral Study

Article 2

The Doctoral Study is conducted within the scientific field of Kinesiology, which belongs to the area of Social Sciences.

Article 3

The Doctoral Study is offered as a full-time and part-time programme with a duration of three years, i.e., six semesters.

1.3 Objectives of the Doctoral Study

Article 4

The objectives of the Doctoral Study may be considered both in terms of the goals pursued by the Faculty of Kinesiology (the institution) and those to be achieved by the candidate/doctoral student:

- Educating highly competent scientists directly and indirectly connected with the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split
- Achieving a high level of quality in scientific output at the Faculty of Kinesiology
- Developing supervisory and mentoring capacities within the Faculty of Kinesiology
- Acquiring advanced competences in scientific research in the field of kinesiology and related sciences
- Attaining high scientific productivity (both in terms of quality and quantity)
- Establishing networks with distinguished scientists from Croatia and abroad

2. ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

Article 5

- (1) Admission to the Doctoral Study shall be carried out through a public call announced by decision of the Faculty Council.
- (2) The call for admission to the Doctoral Study shall be published on the official website of the Faculty and the University of Split.
- (3) The call shall specify the admission requirements, the list of required documents, the duration of the programme, the tuition fee and payment method, as well as the application deadline.
- (4) When applying for admission, the applicant must submit the proposed dissertation topic and suggested supervisor, along with the supervisor's written consent; proof of completion of the previous level of study; transcript of records with the grade point average of all passed courses at the previous level of study or a Diploma Supplement; proof of scientific productivity evaluated in accordance with the criteria prescribed for assessing scientific activity in the category of scientific papers during the study (minimum of 5 ECTS), with the exception of the required Faculty affiliation; proof of English language proficiency; proof of citizenship; and any other documents specified in the call.
- (5) The number of available places is determined at the time of the admission call and the Faculty Council's decision is subject to confirmation by the Senate of the University of Split.
- (6) If the number of applicants meeting the admission requirements exceeds the number of available places (as specified in the call), a selection procedure shall be conducted.
- (7) In the selection procedure, candidates shall be ranked according to:
 - scientific productivity achieved prior to admission, as evidenced by published scientific research papers evaluated according to the same criteria as applied during the study
 - academic performance at the previous level of study (grade point average).

Article 6

- (1) The right to enroll shall be granted to applicants who have completed a university undergraduate programme, a university graduate programme, or an integrated undergraduate and graduate university programme, with a minimum of 300 ECTS credits, corresponding to Level 7.1 of the Croatian Qualifications Framework.
- (2) The dissertation topic submitted with the application for admission must fall within the field of kinesiology or one of its branches. Compliance with this requirement shall be determined by the Doctoral Study Committee (hereinafter: the Committee).
- (3) Applicants who obtained a Master of Science degree outside the ECTS system, and who have neither obtained a doctoral degree nor initiated the doctoral procedure within the statutory deadlines, may enroll in the first semester under the same conditions as other applicants, with the exception that they are not required to submit proof of previously achieved scientific productivity.

3. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF THE DOCTORAL STUDY

3.1 Department for Doctoral Studies

Article 7

- (1) The Department for Doctoral Studies is an organizational unit of the Faculty responsible for organizing and carrying out teaching and other activities within the Doctoral Study Programme in Kinesiology.
- (2) The tasks of the Department for Doctoral Studies are:
 - To consider all issues related to teaching and scientific work within its scope and to undertake the necessary initiatives for resolving them before the competent bodies of the Faculty
 - To encourage cooperation with other universities in establishing joint and double degree programmes
 - To plan the procurement of equipment and consumable materials necessary for the Department's activities.

3.2 Doctoral Study Committee

Article 8

- (1) The Doctoral Study Committee is a working body of the Department for Doctoral Studies, established by the Faculty Council, and composed of a Chair and four members.
- (2) The Chair of the Committee shall be the Vice-Dean for Science.
- (3) The mandate of Committee members shall last three years and correspond to the term of office of the Dean.
- (4) Committee members may be nominated by any member of the Faculty Council with the consent of the nominee, and their appointment shall be decided by the Faculty Council.
- (5) Regular meetings of the Committee shall, as a rule, be held once a month, and more

frequently if necessary.

- (6) Decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of all Committee members (three members).
- (7) Decisions shall be taken at meetings that may be conducted either in person or electronically.
- (8) The Doctoral Study Committee shall:
 - Propose to the Faculty Council the curriculum of the Doctoral Study
 - Propose to the Faculty Council the annual implementation plan of the Doctoral Study
 - Propose to the Faculty Council the announcement of the call for applications and the admission quota for each academic year, subject to confirmation by the Senate of the University of Split
 - Propose to the Faculty Council the dissertation project submitted by the candidate
 - Propose to the Faculty Council the supervisors and co-supervisors of candidates
 - Appoint members of the expert committee for the evaluation of a published scientific paper
 - Propose to the Faculty Council members of the expert committee for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation
 - Decide, at first instance and with the consent of the Vice-Dean for Education and Students, on students' petitions related to the Doctoral Study
 - Review the application documentation and submit to the Faculty Council a proposal on whether or not the applicant meets the admission requirements
 - Compile the ranking list of candidates for admission to the Doctoral Study
 - Perform other tasks within its scope of authority.

3.3 Chair of the Doctoral Study Committee

Article 9

- (1) The Chair of the Doctoral Study Committee shall manage and coordinate the work of the Committee.
- (2) The Chair of the Doctoral Study Committee shall preside over the Committee and convene its meetings. In the event of the Chair's absence, another member of the Committee shall act as substitute, upon the Chair's proposal.
- (3) The mandate of the Chair of the Doctoral Study Committee (Vice-Dean for Science) shall correspond to the term of office of the Dean.
- (4) In addition to the duties specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, the Chair of the Doctoral Study Committee shall:
 - Coordinate the work of the bodies of the Doctoral Study
 - Represent the Doctoral Study on behalf of the Faculty
 - Confirm the fulfillment of students' academic obligations and final examination grades in cases where the course instructor is unable to perform this duty for justified reasons

- Consider all issues of teaching and research within his/her scope and undertake necessary initiatives to resolve them before the competent bodies of the Faculty
- Promote cooperation with other universities in establishing joint and double degree programmes
- Plan the procurement of equipment and consumable materials for the needs of the Doctoral Study.

3.3 The supervisor

Article 10

- (1) The supervisor and co-supervisor of a doctoral dissertation may be a person holding a scientific-teaching or scientific position in Croatia or abroad, provided that he/she obtained a doctoral degree at least two years prior to the date of being proposed as supervisor, and provided that he/she has:
 - Within ten years prior to the date of receiving the student's proposal for supervision, published at least 10 scientific papers in journals indexed with CiteScore in SCOPUS or in journals with an Impact Factor in the Web of Science (hereinafter: "WoS/SCOPUS publications"), of which at least three must have been published in the last five years. Out of the total (10 papers), at least three must be related to the field/topic of the proposed doctoral dissertation, and/or
 - Within five years prior to the date of receiving the student's proposal for supervision, published at least five WoS/SCOPUS publications in journals with an Impact Factor/CiteScore, of which at least three must be related to the field/topic of the proposed doctoral dissertation.
- (2) For the purposes of meeting the requirements set out in paragraph (1), 50% of the papers shall be recognized if they were published in journals where the proposed supervisor was, at the time of publication, an editor, a member of the editorial board, or in journals published by the institution where the supervisor/co-supervisor is employed.
- (3) The supervisor shall be proposed by the student at the time of enrollment, together with the supervisor's written consent to accept the role. The supervisor shall be appointed by the Faculty Council upon the proposal of the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (4) If the supervisor is not employed at the Faculty, the student must be assigned a co-supervisor employed at the Faculty who meets the requirements specified in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (5) A supervisor may simultaneously supervise a maximum of two doctoral students or act in up to four co-supervisions (e.g., one supervision and two co-supervisions) within this programme.
- (6) A supervisor who assumed supervision prior to retirement shall have the right to complete the supervision, subject to the consent of the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (7) A Faculty teacher may serve as a supervisor at another institution of the same or another university if authorized by the Dean of the home Faculty.

- (8) Supervision or co-supervision by scientists from outside the Faculty shall be regulated by an agreement with the Faculty, signed at the time when the Faculty Council appoints the committee for the evaluation of the candidate's doctoral dissertation.
- (9) A student has the right to change supervisor/co-supervisor once, no later than by enrollment in the fifth semester. The change shall follow the same procedure and conditions as the initial appointment. Exceptionally, a change may occur more than once or after the prescribed deadline only in cases of force majeure or extraordinary circumstances.

4. STUDENTS AND COURSES

4.1 Rights and Obligations of Students

Article 11

- (1) Upon enrollment in the first semester, doctoral students shall sign an agreement with the Faculty on their mutual rights and obligations. The agreement shall specify the contracting parties, the student's financial obligations, obligations regarding enrollment and completion of the programme, and other matters relevant to the course of study.
- (2) By signing the agreement and paying the agreed financial obligations, applicants acquire the status of doctoral students.
- (3) In the first and second semesters, a student may enroll in up to five extracurricular courses, with a maximum of three courses per semester.
- (4) If a student chooses extracurricular courses offered and determined by the study programme and implementation plan, he/she is obliged to attend the associated forms of instruction.
- (5) A student has the right to request suspension of studies:
 - during compulsory military service,
 - during pregnancy,
 - for a student-mother or student-father until the child reaches the age of one,
 - during prolonged illness,
 - and in other justified cases, based on a written request to the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (6) During the suspension period, the student's rights and obligations are put on hold, and the period of suspension shall not be counted towards the duration of studies.
- (7) Foreign nationals shall be admitted to the programme under the same conditions as Croatian nationals and nationals of the European Union.

- (8) Doctoral students who obtained the educational qualification required for admission abroad, regardless of nationality, must, when applying for admission to the Doctoral Study, submit proof of recognition of the foreign qualification for the purpose of access to or continuation of education in the Doctoral Study, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations governing this matter.

4.2 Duration of the Doctoral Study

Article 12

- (1) The Doctoral Study shall last three years, i.e., six semesters.
- (2) The first three semesters shall generally last six months each.
- (3) The duration of the fourth, fifth, and sixth semesters may be shorter than six months but not less than three months per semester.
- (4) If a student fails to meet the requirements for enrollment in the next semester, he/she may repeat the same semester once, subject to payment of tuition fees for the repeated semester in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council.

4.3 Organization of Courses

Article 13

- (1) The Doctoral Study in Kinesiology at the Faculty may be conducted in cooperation with other higher education institutions and scientific institutes.
- (2) At the Doctoral Study, extracurricular courses shall be delivered through lectures, seminars, and consultations, as specified in the study programme and implementation plan.
- (3) Teaching of individual courses shall generally be completed within one semester.
- (4) At the student's request, teaching at the Doctoral Study may be recognized as a scientific school and awarded up to a maximum of 5 ECTS credits, regardless of the credit value of the extracurricular course.

4.4. Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic and Supervisor

Article 14

- (1) A student's doctoral dissertation topic must be evaluated by the Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic and approved by the Faculty Council.
- (2) The Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic shall be appointed by the Faculty Council, upon the proposal of the Doctoral Study Committee, at the session at which

- the student's enrollment is approved.
- (3) The Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic shall consist of three members who must hold scientific-teaching positions in the scientific area and field to which the dissertation topic belongs.
 - (4) Within no more than twenty days from the appointment of the Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic, the student shall be obliged to present the proposed dissertation topic before this Committee, for the purpose of providing a direct explanation of the topic, methodology, and expected scientific contribution, in accordance with the details provided in the topic application. The date and venue of the presentation shall be determined by the decision referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.
 - (5) The Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic shall submit to the Faculty Council a report with a proposal to accept or reject the dissertation topic within thirty days of the decision by which the Committee was appointed.
 - (6) Based on the report and proposal of the Committee for Acceptance of the Doctoral Dissertation Topic, the Faculty Council shall issue a final decision on the acceptance or rejection of the proposed dissertation topic and shall confirm the appointment of the dissertation supervisor.
 - (7) The procedure for acceptance of the doctoral dissertation topic and supervisor must be completed before enrollment in the second semester.

5. ACQUISITION OF ECTS CREDITS

Article 15

- (1) During the course of study, a student must obtain at least 180 ECTS credits.
- (2) Students shall earn ECTS credits through the following activities:
 - 2.1 Participation in scientific schools (20 ECTS)
 - 2.2 Active participation in international scientific congresses (20 ECTS)
 - 2.3 Publication and defense of scientific papers (60 ECTS)
 - 2.4 Supervisor's reports (50 ECTS)
 - 2.5 Defense of the doctoral dissertation (30 ECTS)

5.1 Scientific Schools

Article 16

- (1) The category "scientific schools" includes attendance at scientific schools and seminars (educational events) of the student's own choice.

- (2) The Faculty of Kinesiology shall, as needed, organize one scientific school per semester, with topics and lecturers defined in accordance with the needs and interests of doctoral students as well as Faculty staff.
- (3) By attending one scientific school per semester, a doctoral student may meet all the requirements of the Doctoral Study in this category, since each school organized by the Faculty of Kinesiology shall be awarded 5 ECTS credits.
- (4) The costs of scientific schools organized by the Faculty shall be borne by the student in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council.
- (5) Doctoral students are not obliged to attend only the Faculty's scientific schools in order to fulfill this requirement; they may also attend other scientific schools.
- (6) The evaluation and allocation of ECTS credits for scientific schools referred to in paragraph (5) of this Article shall be carried out by the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (7) Prior to attending a scientific school referred to in paragraph (5), a student has the right to request the Committee's opinion on its recognition.
- (8) In each of the first four semesters, the student must obtain at least 5 ECTS credits in the category "scientific schools," amounting to a total of 20 ECTS credits.
- (9) For the purpose of fulfilling the ECTS requirements in the category "scientific schools," up to half of the minimum required credits (maximum 10 ECTS) may be recognized if the student attended a scientific school (for which recognition is requested from the Committee) within five years prior to enrollment in the programme.

5.2 Scientific Congresses

Article 17

- (1) Attendance at scientific congresses shall be credited on the basis of oral presentations of papers at scientific congresses in Croatia and abroad.
- (2) For the acquisition of ECTS credits under this activity, only oral presentations delivered by the doctoral student in English shall be recognized.
- (3) Each oral presentation in English shall be awarded 5 ECTS credits, regardless of whether the paper is published in full in the congress proceedings or only as an abstract.
- (4) (4) for scientific papers. Thus, at the same congress, a doctoral student may obtain credits in two categories/activities (category/activity "scientific congresses": if he/she delivered an oral presentation in English; and category/activity "scientific papers": if the paper was published in full in the congress proceedings).
- (5) For the acquisition of ECTS credits under this activity, presentations of scientific papers shall be recognized even if the doctoral student is not the first author.
- (6) In the category "scientific congresses," only one oral presentation per congress shall be credited. This means that in order to achieve the minimum required 20 ECTS credits in this category, the doctoral student must attend at least four congresses.

- (7) As proof of paper presentation at congresses, only certificates issued by the organizer shall be accepted, which must indicate the type of presentation (poster or oral presentation), the category of the paper, the title of the presented paper, confirmation that the doctoral student was the presenter, and the language of presentation.
- (8) If the organizer has not issued a certificate containing the above-mentioned information necessary for evaluation, the Committee shall request the doctoral student to obtain the relevant information from the organizer, and shall subsequently decide on the recognition of the certificate.
- (9) In each semester from the second to the sixth (until submission of the doctoral dissertation), the student must obtain at least 5 ECTS credits, amounting to a total of 20 ECTS credits in the category “scientific congresses.”
- (10) For the acquisition of ECTS credits under this activity, up to half of the minimum required credits (maximum 10 ECTS) may be recognized if the presentations at congresses took place within five years prior to enrollment in the study, provided all the criteria specified above are met.

5.3 Publication and Defense of a Scientific Paper

Article 18

- (1) Credits in this category shall be obtained exclusively through the defense of scientific papers in the field of kinesiology.
- (2) The credits assigned to individual categories of scientific papers are defined by the level of effort required for writing and publishing a paper in a given type of journal, as follows:
 - Publications ranked in the 1st and 2nd quartile of quality (according to CiteScore index or Impact Factor): 20 ECTS
 - Publications ranked in the 3rd quartile of quality (according to CiteScore index or Impact Factor): 15 ECTS
 - Publications ranked in the 4th quartile of quality (according to CiteScore index or Impact Factor): 10 ECTS
 - Publications not included in quartile ranking (without CiteScore index and/or Impact Factor): 5 ECTS
- (3) Ranking shall be determined according to the CiteScore citation index provided by SCOPUS or the Impact Factor provided by Web of Science, or another relevant index of the same database if the method of indexing changes during the study period.
- (4) Under the category “scientific papers,” the following shall be eligible for ECTS credits:
 - Original scientific articles (research, original investigation, etc.)
 - Review articles (review, brief review, etc.) and meta-analyses
 - Preliminary scientific communications (brief report, preliminary investigation, etc.)
- (5) Letters to the editor, commentaries, and corrections of published articles shall not be credited within the Doctoral Study.

- (6) The recognition or non-recognition of a published paper shall be decided by the Committee. The student has the right to appeal the Committee's decision to the Faculty Council, through the student office, within 15 days of receiving notice of the decision.
- (7) In order to obtain ECTS credits in the category "scientific papers," each published paper must be defended before an examination committee.
- (8) Credits for scientific papers shall be awarded only for authorship as first author, provided that the total number of authors/co-authors does not exceed ten.
- (9) Scientific papers published in journals where the candidate's supervisor or co-supervisor is an editor or editorial board member, or in journals published by the institution where the candidate or his/her supervisor/co-supervisor is employed, shall be credited up to 50% of the points in this category.
- (10) Credits earned through scientific papers and credits earned through conference participation are independent and calculated separately; that is, credits for authorship of a paper and credits for its presentation are awarded independently.
- (11) For the purpose of obtaining ECTS credits in the category "scientific papers," a student may submit:
 - Papers published during the course of the Doctoral Study
 - Papers published up to five years before enrollment in the Doctoral Study (up to a maximum of 50% of the minimum required ECTS credits in this category).
- (12) Papers shall be considered published if they have appeared in the print or electronic version of a journal, or if they have been published online "ahead of print" (E-pub ahead of print).
- (13) The quality level of the journal/publication shall be determined based on its SCOPUS or WoS ranking either at the time of submission ("Date of submission") or at the time of publication, whichever is more favorable for the student.
- (14) In this category, the student must obtain at least 10 ECTS credits in the second, third, and fourth semesters, i.e., a minimum total of 30 ECTS credits by the end of the fourth semester, and an additional 30 ECTS credits in the fifth semester, amounting to a total of 60 ECTS credits in the category "scientific papers."
- (15) For submission of the doctoral dissertation, it is required that it consist of papers published in WoS/SCOPUS journals, which have been previously defended in examinations, and which amount to at least 50 ECTS credits of defended papers related to the dissertation topic, out of the minimum required 60 ECTS credits in this category.

Article 19

- (1) In order for a student to obtain credits in the category/activity "scientific papers," the published papers must be defended before an Examination Committee.
- (2) The Examination Committees shall be appointed by the Doctoral Study Committee, taking into account the following criteria:

- Members of the Examination Committee shall be scientists holding a scientific-teaching or scientific title, competent in the field relevant to the subject matter of the defended scientific paper, on which the examination is based.
 - Appointed members must consent to their appointment.
 - The Examination Committee shall consist of three members, of whom at least one shall not be employed at the Faculty.
 - The supervisor/co-supervisor of the doctoral dissertation, as well as co-authors of the scientific paper being defended, may not be appointed to the Committee.
- (3) If the student fails to successfully defend the paper before the Examination Committee, he/she shall bear the cost of repeating the defense (examination), in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council.
 - (4) If the student submits another paper (examination) for defense, a new Examination Committee shall be appointed, and such defense shall be considered a new (first) attempt.
 - (5) The student shall submit the paper (examination) electronically to the Chair of the Examination Committee, together with the text of the paper.
 - (6) The Chair of the Examination Committee must schedule the examination no later than thirty days from the date of receipt of the application.

5.3 Supervisor's report

Article 20

- (1) In the category "supervisor's report," a student obtains 50 ECTS credits.
- (2) Enrollment in the fifth semester shall, among other requirements, be conditional upon a positive evaluation by the supervisor of the student's scientific work to date, on the basis of which the student shall be awarded 20 ECTS credits.
- (3) Enrollment in the sixth semester shall, among other requirements, be conditional upon a positive evaluation by the supervisor of the student's scientific work to date, on the basis of which the student shall be awarded the remaining 30 ECTS credits.

5.4 Enrollment in the Next Semester of the Doctoral Study

Article 21

- (1) At the end of each semester, and before enrollment in the next semester, the student shall be required to demonstrate scientific activity.
- (2) Enrollment in the next semester shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and the decision of the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (3) Students shall begin the programme from the first semester.

- (4) Advancement from the first to the second semester requires 30 ECTS credits, but not fewer than 5 ECTS credits, including 5 ECTS from the category “scientific schools,” as well as the approval of the dissertation topic and supervisor.
- (5) Advancement from the second to the third semester requires 60 ECTS credits, but not fewer than 25 ECTS credits, including at least:
 1. 10 ECTS from the category “scientific papers” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 2. 10 ECTS from the category “scientific schools” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 3. 5 ECTS from the category “scientific congresses” (cumulative from the beginning of study).
- (6) Advancement from the third to the fourth semester requires 90 ECTS credits, but not fewer than 45 ECTS credits, including at least:
 1. 20 ECTS from the category “scientific papers” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 2. 15 ECTS from the category “scientific schools” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 3. 10 ECTS from the category “scientific congresses” (cumulative from the beginning of study).
- (7) Advancement from the fourth to the fifth semester requires 120 ECTS credits, but not fewer than 85 ECTS credits, including at least:
 1. 30 ECTS from the category “scientific papers” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 2. 20 ECTS from the category “scientific schools” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
 3. 15 ECTS from the category “scientific congresses” (cumulative from the beginning of study), and
 4. 20 ECTS based on the supervisor’s positive evaluation/report on the student’s scientific work to date, which is a prerequisite for enrollment in the semester.
- (8) Advancement from the fifth to the sixth semester requires 150 ECTS credits, but not fewer than 115 ECTS credits, including at least 30 ECTS based on the supervisor’s positive evaluation/report on the student’s scientific work to date, which is a prerequisite for enrollment in the semester.

Any shortfall in ECTS credits upon enrollment in the sixth semester, specifically:

1. 30 ECTS from the category “scientific papers,” and
 2. 5 ECTS from the category “scientific congresses,”
must be fulfilled by the student no later than prior to submission of the doctoral dissertation.
- (9) For submission, evaluation, and defense of the doctoral dissertation in the sixth semester, the student must have obtained:
 1. 20 ECTS from the category “scientific schools” (cumulative from the beginning of study),

2. 60 ECTS from the category “scientific papers” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
3. 20 ECTS from the category “scientific congresses” (cumulative from the beginning of study),
4. 50 ECTS from the category “supervisor’s positive evaluation/report.”

Of the 60 ECTS credits obtained in the category “scientific papers,” at least 50 ECTS must come from papers previously defended in examinations and related to the dissertation topic.

- (10) When enrolling in a higher semester, from the second to the fifth, a student may have fewer than the nominal cumulative ECTS credits per semester (30/60/90/120), provided that the other minimum requirements in each category for that semester are met. Any shortfall in ECTS credits, whether by category or overall, upon enrollment in the sixth semester must be fulfilled before submission of the doctoral dissertation.
- (11) By defending the doctoral dissertation, the student shall obtain an additional 30 ECTS credits, amounting to a total of 180 ECTS credits, which represents the minimum required for completion of the programme.

6. PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION AND DEFENSE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Article 22

- (1) The Doctoral Study in Kinesiology leading to the academic degree of Doctor of Science shall be completed by the preparation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.
- (2) By defending the doctoral dissertation, the student shall obtain 30 ECTS credits.
- (3) After enrolling in the sixth semester and fulfilling all previously specified requirements, the student shall have the right to initiate the dissertation defense procedure. For this purpose, the student shall submit the doctoral dissertation, which shall essentially consist of scientific papers published on the topic of the dissertation, where the doctoral student is the first author with no more than nine co-authors per paper.
- (4) The doctoral dissertation shall consist of papers published in journals indexed in WoS/SCOPUS, exclusively in journals with a CiteScore citation index (SCOPUS) or an Impact Factor (WoS), amounting to at least 50 ECTS credits, in accordance with the rules for credit allocation in the category “scientific papers.”
- (5) Exceptionally, the student may include additional, non-defended papers in the dissertation if he/she believes that such papers would enhance its quality.
- (6) In the case referred to in the preceding paragraph, a positive opinion from the Doctoral Study Committee shall be required as a condition for submission of the dissertation.
- (7) The combined papers must provide a new scientific contribution compared to the individual papers.
- (8) Papers shall also be recognized as part of the dissertation if the doctoral student did not list the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split, as his/her institutional affiliation.

- (9) The doctoral dissertation may be written in English if this is the original language of the papers and if the supervisor consents.
- (10) A student wishing to write the doctoral dissertation in English shall submit a request using the standard form, with prior written consent of the supervisor.
- (11) The request must be submitted at the time of enrollment in the sixth semester, but before submission of the dissertation for evaluation and defense. The decision on the request shall be made by the Doctoral Study Committee.
- (12) If the Committee issues a positive decision, the dissertation must contain an additional page including the title, extended abstract, and keywords in Croatian.

Article 23

- (1) The application shall be submitted to the Doctoral Study Committee, through the Student Office, using the standard form.
- (2) Together with the request to initiate the evaluation procedure, the student shall electronically submit the doctoral dissertation to the Faculty's Student Office.
- (3) At its first subsequent session, upon the proposal of the Doctoral Study Committee, the Faculty Council shall appoint a Doctoral Dissertation Evaluation Committee consisting of at least five members holding scientific-teaching titles, at least two of whom may not be employed at the Faculty, and at least one of whom may not be employed at the University.(4) The supervisor and co-supervisor may not be members of the Doctoral Dissertation Evaluation Committee.

6.1 Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation

Article 24

- (1) The Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation shall review the dissertation and provide the candidate with any comments. Members of the Committee may not require the candidate to make changes that are inconsistent with the research plan and protocol specified in the final approved dissertation topic.
- (2) Within 30 to 60 days of its appointment, the Committee shall submit to the Faculty Council a report on the evaluation of the dissertation.
- (3) In its report, the Committee may propose:
 - Acceptance of the dissertation and authorization to proceed to the defense,
 - Returning the dissertation to the candidate for amendments or corrections,
 - Rejection of the dissertation.
- (4) Decisions of the Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation shall be made by simple majority.

6.2 Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation

Article 25

- (1) If the Faculty Council accepts the report of the Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation finding that the dissertation contains deficiencies that can be corrected, it shall invite the candidate to remedy the deficiencies in accordance with the Committee's instructions and comments.
- (2) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), the candidate must amend the dissertation within ninety days of receiving the Faculty Council's decision.
- (3) If the candidate fails to act in accordance with the Faculty Council's decision under paragraph (2) without justified reason, the dissertation shall be considered rejected.
- (4) If the Faculty Council concludes that the report of the Committee does not provide a sufficient basis for making a decision on the dissertation, it shall decide either to expand the Committee's membership or to appoint a new Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation, in which members of the previous Committee may not be appointed.
- (5) The expanded or newly appointed Committee shall re-examine the dissertation and submit a report to the Faculty Council.

6.3 Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation

Article 26

- (1) Following the acceptance of a positive evaluation of the doctoral dissertation, the Faculty Council shall, as a rule at the same session, appoint the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation.
- (2) The Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation shall have the same number of members and the same requirements as the Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation.
- (3) Members of the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation may also be the same persons who served on the Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation.
- (4) The Chair of the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation shall preside over the public defense proceedings and shall be responsible for the minutes of the defense.
- (5) The supervisor and co-supervisor may not be members of the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation.

6.4 Suspension of the Doctoral Procedure

Article 27

- (1) If the report of the Committee for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Dissertation is negative, and the Faculty Council does not decide to expand the Committee's membership or appoint a new Committee for re-evaluation, the Faculty Council shall issue a decision to reject the dissertation and to suspend the procedure for obtaining the doctoral degree, and shall notify the candidate thereof.

- (2) A specially reasoned decision on the suspension of the doctoral procedure shall be delivered to the candidate within eight days of the adoption of the decision.
- (3) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), the candidate may not repeat the doctoral procedure on the same dissertation topic at the University of Split.

6.5 Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation

Article 28

- (1) The defense of the doctoral dissertation shall be public.
- (2) The date and venue of the defense shall be determined by the Dean of the Faculty, no later than ninety days from the date of acceptance of the positive evaluation. Notice of the defense shall be published on the Faculty's notice board and website at least seven days before the defense.
- (3) The candidate shall defend the doctoral dissertation within sixty days from the date of publication of the notice of defense, before the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation.
- (4) Record of the defense shall be kept and signed by the members of the Committee and the recording secretary.
- (5) The record shall include the decision of the Committee regarding the defense.
- (6) The decision of the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation may be:
 - Successfully defended by unanimous decision of the Committee,
 - Successfully defended by majority decision of the Committee,
 - Not defended.
- (7) A candidate who has not successfully defended the dissertation has the right, within ninety days of the Committee's decision, to submit a new dissertation topic to initiate the doctoral procedure, but not on the same topic.
- (8) A dissertation not defended within ten years of the acceptance of its topic shall be subject to a new topic acceptance procedure.

Article 29

- (1) At the defense of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate shall present for no longer than 45 minutes. After the presentation, members of the Committee may pose questions related to the dissertation topic. Each member may ask up to three questions. The candidate shall have the right to prepare answers to the Committee's questions within a maximum of thirty minutes.
- (2) After the answers to the questions, the Committee shall decide whether the dissertation has been successfully defended or not.

Article 30

- (1) After a successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate shall add a page to the

dissertation, prior to binding, containing the names of the members of the Committee for the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation and the date of the defense.

- (2) The candidate shall submit, through the Student Office, three (3) copies of the doctoral dissertation, each in hardbound (printed) form.

6.6 Publication and Archiving of the Doctoral Dissertation

Article 31

- (1) The Faculty shall ensure that the doctoral dissertation is made publicly available on the Faculty's website at least thirty days prior to the defense.
- (2) The Faculty shall publish the doctoral dissertation within thirty days of the defense in the national repository and the Faculty's repository.
- (3) The Faculty shall ensure that one printed copy of the doctoral dissertation is submitted to the National and University Library, in accordance with the restrictions prescribed by specific regulations governing copyright protection, patent protection, and similar rights, accompanied by confirmation from the University of Split that the procedure is ongoing.

6.7 Procedure for Revocation of the Academic Degree

Article 32

- (1) A doctoral dissertation shall be revoked if it is established to be a plagiarism or a forgery.
- (2) The procedure for revocation of the academic degree shall be initiated by the Faculty Council, either ex officio or at the proposal of persons who demonstrate a legitimate legal interest.
- (3) The existence of grounds for revocation of the academic degree shall be determined by an Expert Committee appointed by the Faculty Council. Upon completion of the procedure, the Expert Committee shall submit its opinion to the Faculty Council, which shall adopt the final decision on the revocation of the academic degree.
- (4) Revocation of the academic degree shall also entail the loss of all professional titles for which that academic degree was a prerequisite.

7. COMPLETION OF THE DOCTORAL STUDY

Article 33

- (1) Upon completion of the programme and successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, the academic degree of Doctor of Science in the field of Social Sciences shall be awarded.

- (2) The abbreviation of the academic degree is *dr. sc. socio.*, and it is placed in front of the person's first and last name.
- (3) The promotion ceremony for the Doctor of Science degree shall be conducted by the Rector.

Article 34

A student enrolled in the Doctoral Study must complete the programme within a period not exceeding twice the prescribed duration of study; otherwise, the student shall lose student status.

8. FINANCING OF THE DOCTORAL STUDY

Article 35

- (1) The Doctoral Study does not entail tuition fees, unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Council.
- (2) Students shall be obliged to pay enrollment fees, in accordance with the decision of the Faculty Council for each academic year.
- (3) Doctoral students shall be responsible for covering all other costs directly or indirectly related to the programme (costs of repeating a semester, costs related to initiating and conducting extracurricular courses, costs incurred in the event of repeating the defense of a scientific paper/examination or the doctoral dissertation before a committee), in accordance with the decisions of the Faculty Council.
- (4) The remuneration, obligations, and responsibilities of supervisors, teachers, members of committees, and any necessary advisors during the programme shall be regulated by separate acts, in accordance with the Collective Agreement and applicable laws and regulations.

9. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 36

- (1) These Regulations shall enter into force on the eighth day following their publication on the Faculty's website.
- (2) Upon entry into force of these Regulations, the Regulations on the Doctoral Study in Kinesiology, Class: 003-05/24-02/001; Reg. No.: 2181-205-04-01-24-0005 of 29 May 2024, shall cease to apply.
- (3) For students who enrolled in the Doctoral Study under the Regulations on the Postgraduate

University Doctoral Study of the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split, Class: 003-05/20-02/001; Reg. No.: 2181-205-02-01-20-001 of 22 April 2020, and the corresponding amendments, the provisions of these Regulations shall apply if they are more favorable.

- (4) Students who enrolled in the Doctoral Study under regulations in force prior to the adoption of the Regulations on the Postgraduate University Doctoral Study of the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Split, Class: 003-05/20-02/001; Reg. No.: 2181-205-02-01-20-001 of 22 April 2020, may complete their enrolled programme under the regulations then in force, provided they have attended all courses and passed all examinations, and no later than 13 June 2026. After this deadline, students may continue their studies only by transferring to the new study conditions.
- (5) Students referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article who have not attended all courses and passed all examinations may continue their studies only by transferring to the new study conditions.
- (6) Amendments and supplements to these Regulations shall be adopted in the same manner and following the same procedure as for their adoption.

Class: 003-05/24-02/001

Reg. No.: 2181-205-02-01-24-001

DEAN:

Prof. Frane Žuvela, PhD