

Presentation

The Doctoral School of Educational Sciences has been founded on the 21st of November 2001, as part of Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB) Administration Council's decision, following the Bologna Declaration from 1999.

In 2005, the Doctoral School of Educational Sciences was renamed 'Education. Development. Cognition'. It included two separate doctoral fields: educational sciences and psychology.

Ever since 2012, it has operated under the name 'Education. Reflection. Development' (abbreviated SDERD).

Our doctoral program has the following aims:

- to offer theoretical, methodological and applied training to specialists in educational sciences.
- pedagogical training that allows working in educational resources centers.
- pedagogical training that allows working in non-formal learning institutes.
- research training the field of educational sciences.
- competences training for basic research and initiation in experimental pedagogical research.

Research is one of the main activities SDERD focuses on. SDERD's mission is to initiate PhD students in the field of pedagogical research – this usually means writing a research-action thesis. The result of joint research, PhD students and PhD coordinators, have been displayed during National and International Conferences and published as articles in significant specialty magazines, ISI and BDI indexed.

Individual study plan for doctoral studies

According to the individual study plan, done by the PhD students and their doctoral supervisors, the doctoral studies are meant to provide constant progress that eventually results in the final public defense of the doctoral thesis.

1st semester of the doctoral studies – Advanced academic studies

After the admission and enrollment process, starting October 1st, the Doctoral School organizes courses as part of the Advanced academic studies programme, in accordance with the Curriculum and the schedule set by the Doctoral School. ERD's Curriculum includes relevant subjects meant to offer scientific training for PhD students. At least one of these compulsory subjects offers a thorough study of the research methodology and/or statistical data processing, such as *General research methods and the methodology of scientific paper elaboration*. The courses offered by SDERD are taught by Professors having at least the Associate Professor (Conf. univ. dr.) academic rank. Each PhD student has their own Study plan agreed upon with their doctoral supervisor. The students also have to choose at least three courses from SDERD or other doctoral school, that they will have to attend; one of these courses has to be *Ethics and academic integrity*. All activities regarding courses, seminars, practical works and debates from the Curriculum are featured in the Syllabus that can be found on the Faculty's webpage ⇒ Department of Educational Sciences ⇒ Doctoral School.

At the end of the Advanced academic studies program, the PhD students receive a certificate proving they have attended the courses in the Study plan. The template of the certificate is to be filled in with the qualification the PhD students got after submitting a paper of 8-10 pages for each course and debating it.

2nd semester of the doctoral studies – the completion of the Doctoral research project

Throughout the second semester of the doctoral studies (march-september), the PhD students, their supervisors and the Doctoral Advisory Committee's main focus is on completing the Doctoral research project, covering the bibliography/scientific literature of the PhD subject. Assessing these projects has to be done by September 30th of the first year of doctorate, with the mandatory participation of the doctoral supervisor and Doctoral Advisory Committee, but, optionally, anyone can participate. The outcome of the assessment is recorded in a report which will contain, by the end of the Doctoral studies, all three oral presentations – Research project, 1st Research report and 2nd Research report. The report mentioned above is then signed by the doctoral supervisor and by the members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee.

3rd and 4th semester of the doctoral studies – the completion of the 1st Research report – the theoretical and psycho-pedagogical basis of the thesis

The second year of doctorate focuses on new important purposes for the doctoral research. First of all, the bibliographical research makes up an extensive paper as the theoretical basis of the thesis, which will develop into the 1st Research report - the theoretical and psycho-pedagogical basis of the thesis (oral presentation).

Second of all, activities such as experimenting with and developing the paper's design, clarifying the research coordinates and beginning the actual research on the topic are recommended and encouraged. The doctoral supervisor alongside the members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee offer guidance in terms of research bibliography, research hypothesis, with the optimization of the relation between variables etc.

The 1st Research report defense takes place in front of the doctoral supervisor and the members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee; optionally, anyone else who is interested in the presented topic is welcome. The results of the defense are written down in an official report.

5th semester of the doctoral studies – the completion of the 2nd Research report – Research methodology and partial results

At the beginning of the 3rd year of doctoral studies, the major focus is on writing and finishing the 2nd Research report, following the subject *Research methodology and partial results*. The doctoral supervisor and the members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee offer guidance in regard to developing the paper's design, clarifying the research coordinates and continuing the actual research.

The oral presentation of the 2nd Research report takes place in front of the doctoral supervisor and the members of the Doctoral Advisor Committee; optionally, anyone else who is interested in the presented topic is welcome. The results of the defense are written down in the report.

6th semester of the doctoral studies – the completion of the PhD thesis. The pre-defense (defense in front of the Doctoral Advisory Committee). The Public defense

The PhD students, alongside their doctoral supervisors and the members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee have to come together in a series of joint activities that aim at completing the PhD thesis, organizing the pre-defense and the public defense.

The pre-defense procedure follows the steps below:

- the PhD thesis is verified by the doctoral supervisor, who then gives his accept regarding the beginning of the pre-defense procedures.
- the PhD thesis is sent to IOSUD (Instituția Organizatoare de Studii Universitare de Doctorat – the Institute for Doctoral Studies) for the similarity degree check (iThenticate index); depending on the results, the doctoral supervisor decides upon the next step (whether to accept it or not).
- the accepted PhD thesis is then sent for pre-defense to the members of the Doctoral Advisor Committee, who have to verify it and make suggestions on what could be improved.
- the pre-defense is scheduled and organized; the Committee's decision is recorded in the official report, which is then sent to IOSUD.

If the Doctoral Advisor Committee's vote is positive, the process moves on to the next step – the public defense. The results of the public defense are recorded in another official report.

The public defense

The last stage of the doctoral studies is the public defense of the PhD thesis, which reflects the high standards of the doctoral research and papers. The process of evaluating the thesis and the public defense involves both the Professors from *Education, Reflection, Development* Doctoral School (Babeş-Bolyai University) and the specialists who form the Public Defense Committee, usually coming from University of Bucharest, University of Iași or University of Timișoara.