



## Social and Humanitarian Sciences PhD Programme

### Programme Title:

PhD Programme in Social and Humanitarian Sciences

### Qualification Awarded:

- PhD in Social Sciences, including:
  - PhD in International Relations;
  - PhD in Economics;
  - PhD in Sociology.
- PhD in Humanitarian Sciences, including:
  - PhD in Philosophy;
  - PhD in Philology;
  - PhD in History.

### Programme Credits:

180 ECTS

### Language of Instruction:

Georgian

### Concept of the Programme:

PhD Programme in Social and Humanitarian Sciences at the Doctoral School of Free University of Tbilisi is the third level of Higher Education, implemented in cooperation with other faculties / schools of the University. The main function of the Doctoral School is to provide scientific researches with modern resources, to coordinate doctoral scientific activities and integrate them into modern, global scientific research.

The study component of the PhD Program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences provides PhD students with appropriate methodological preparation and field tools for high quality research. At the same time, PhD program for Social and Humanitarian Sciences is focused on generating the necessary general skills in doctoral students, which is important for a successful career in the current labour market.

The study component of PhD Program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences is 45 ECTS. Curriculum is taught by highly qualified personnel. Apart from research activities, the doctoral students are also involved in the academic process of the university.

### Objectives of the Programme:

The goal of the PhD Program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences is to:

- ensure scientific research in social sciences (including international relations, economics) and humanitarian sciences (including philosophy, history, philology);
- integrate researchers into the international scientific community;
- prepare pedagogical staff in social and humanitarian sciences for science and high school;
- enhance scientific work and improve research quality;
- promote new knowledge creation and implementation;



- ensure scientific research for the doctoral thesis, provide academic supervision for it, from the educational process perspective and scientific supervisors, as well as to publically present the thesis and award the doctor's academic degree.

Goals set to achieve by PhD School are to:

- find and organise research with the supervision of a mentor;
- offer methodological and theoretical knowledge required to conduct a high level of research;
- create an appropriate environment for effective work - in particular PhD students should have a work space, computer hardware, library, as well as access to electronic library resources).

PhD Program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences is focused on the development of the necessary skills (innovation, initiative, creativity), which are important for a successful career in the current labour market. PhD students will be able to share their future scientific interests and engage them in new and neighbouring study fields. This is especially important when PhD students are looking for ways to solve complex, interdisciplinary scientific problems in social and humanitarian sciences.

The aim of Free University of Tbilisi is to create an environment for learning, teaching and research at all levels, including at the Doctoral level, which will be the best in Georgia and accessible to young people. University will assist PhD students in creating the best environment for studying in their fields of interest. Thus, the goals of the PhD program are directly compatible with the Mission of the University.

### **Career Options:**

After completion of PhD Program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences, graduates will be able to work as:

- scholars or researchers in private and public projects;
- academic personnel at the university;
- consultant in private and public international organizations.

### **Admission Prerequisites for PhD Programme:**

Applicants for the PhD Programme in Social and Humanitarian Sciences must have a master's degree or an equivalent academic degree, which meets the requirements of the University's Doctoral Standard set by the University's Doctoral School.

The program is adopted by the Georgian legislation and the rules established by the university.

### **Learning Outcomes of PhD Programme:**

*Disclaimer: hereafter the term "field" references fields of International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, Philology or History, depending on the chosen PhD.*

After the completion of the PhD Programme, graduates will own general and specific competencies listed below:



### **Knowledge and Understanding:**

Graduates will possess:

- knowledge of the field's theory and its latest achievements;
- ability to analyse problems of the field and knowledge of the methods necessary for analysis;
- knowledge of modern methods of scientific research in the field;
- knowledge and ability to use achievements of the field and its adjoining sciences;
- ability to create original work in the field and to publish the final research project.

### **Applying Knowledge to Practice:**

Graduates will possess:

- ability to conduct theoretical / qualitative research in the field;
- knowledge and ability to demonstrate methods of higher education in the field;
- ability to transfer field's knowledge to specialists and the general public;
- ability to advise on the implementation, use and analysis of the theory and practice of the field, its research and theory of practice;
- generate and guide research methodology in the field;
- create and interpret new knowledge in the field through original innovative research;
- develop new skills, techniques, instruments, practical activities and materials in the field;
- planning, implementing and overseeing the research in the field.

### **Ability to Make Conclusion:**

Graduates will have the ability to:

- deeply analyse, synthase and evaluate;
- think abstract;
- independently make decisions in complex situations;
- critically think and self-criticise.

### **Communication Skills:**

Graduates will have the ability to:

- communicate academic knowledge in their native language;
- write and communicate in foreign languages (English);
- act quickly and adapt to a foreign environment;
- perfectly use information and communication technologies.

### **Ability to Learn:**

Graduates will have the ability to:

- retrieve / process/ use information;
- prepare and develop new ideas and processes in learning and activity process, as well as in scientific research, based on the latest achievements.



### Values:

Graduates will have the ability to:

- respect and understand different cultures;
- know and share ethical norms in research;
- know the basic principles of professional responsibility and professional ethical behavior;
- develop innovative methods to establish values.

### Learning and Teaching Methods:

During the implementation of the programme, following methods are used:

- verbal/oral communication method;
- discussion/debate;
- demonstration method;
- field work;
- presentation;
- induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis;
- laboratory;
- writing method.

Professor or a person engaged in the educational program is authorized to use one of these methods or any other method in order to achieve concrete academic research goals.

### Knowledge Assessment System

Student's knowledge is assessed by a score system out of 100 points. The assessment is multicomponent and meets the rules of calculating higher educational program credits, approved by the Order N3 issued on 5 January 2007 by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.

During the assessment of student's knowledge, all the academic staff and any invited personnel are obliged to use the above-mentioned rule. Following scheme is used to assess the knowledge:

- (A) Excellent – score between 91-100;
- (B) Very good – score between 81-90;
- (C) Good – score between 71-80;
- (D) Satisfying – score between 61-70;
- (E) Sufficient – score between 51-60.
- (FX) Fail to pass – score between 41-50;
- (F) Fail – score 40 and below.

### Thesis Evaluation Scale:

- Excellent (*summa cum laude*) - excellent work;
- Very good (*magna cum laude*) - the result is above all requirements;
- Good (*cum laude*) - the result exceeds the requirements;
- Average (*bene*) - the result meets all the requirements;
- Satisfactory (*rite*) - the result meets the requirements despite the shortcomings,



- Inadequate (*insufficienter*) - the result does not meet the requirements due to significant shortcomings;
- Completely unsatisfactory (*sub omni canone*) - the result does not meet the set-out requirements.

In case of receiving:

- excellent, very good, good, average and satisfactory assessment - the PhD student is awarded the PhD academic degree;
- unsatisfactory assessment - the PhD student has the right to re-submit thesis in one year;
- completely unsatisfactory assessment - the PhD student loses the right to present the same thesis paper.

The completed number of credits allocated by the PhD by the research component is confirmed by the scientific supervisor in each academic semester.

### Study plan (Curriculum)

Curriculum and semester plan are available. The description of the study components is described in the syllabi.

### Resources:

Academic staff of Free University, as well as invited academic personnel will participate in the PhD Program.

All the resources, which are available at Free University of Tbilisi will be available to PhD students, including, but not limited to library, electronic databases and research centres.