



## A Guide for Students

### *Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme in Psychology*

**Name of the study programme:** Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme in Psychology

**Study programme holder:** University of Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Study programme provider:** Department of Psychology

**Academic / professional title acquired upon completion of studies:** Doctor of Science from the area of Social Sciences, Field of Psychology

**Duration of the study programme:** The study programme is performed full-time or part-time:

- full-time study - lasts 3 years,
- part-time study - can last up to 6 years.

**Total number of ECTS credits:** 180 ECTS credits

### About Doctoral Programme

The basic determinant of this postgraduate university (doctoral) study (hereinafter: doctoral study) is the improvement of knowledge through the creation and implementation of original research. This enables doctoral students to develop key research skills such as problem-solving, creative and critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of knowledge, and generic skills such as communication skills, presentation, teamwork and a wide range of social skills.

The uniqueness and recognisability of the doctoral study in psychology will be reflected in the application of the following principles:

- selectivity and a complete orientation toward research
- mobility of students and teachers,
- interdisciplinarity,
- collaboration,
- partnership with the local community.

This doctoral study in psychology adheres to the recommendations of professional associations and enables psychologists to meet the requirements prescribed by professional associations in Croatia (Croatian Psychological Society, Croatian Psychological Chamber).

## The Starting Point of the Study Programme

In creating of the doctoral study program, the proposals of EFPA (European Federation of Psychologists' Association) on the minimum standards required for obtaining a doctorate in psychology were taken into account, and thus the doctoral study programme includes:

1. education on advanced research methods and statistical procedures and critical choice of methodology for answering specific research questions, which results in the acquisition of competencies in research methods and statistical procedures,
2. understanding the process and gaining experience in preparing presentations for scientific conferences; preparation and procedure of publishing scientific articles,
3. adoption of literature review standards and acquisition of research skills in the basic field of research,
4. participation in teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

According to general European principles, scientific research is the most important part of a doctoral study and most of the time is devoted to it.

Discussions on original scientific articles and own scientific work in the context of discussion groups is the most important form of teaching, which, in combination with basic subjects in the first year of study and all other activities, prepares doctoral students for a critical approach to their own research.

## Compliance with the Mission and Strategy of the University of Rijeka and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The postgraduate doctoral study in psychology is harmonized with the mission and strategic goals of the University of Rijeka for the period from 2021 to 2025, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka for the period from 2019 to 2023, and the Strategy for the development of scientific research at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka from 2016 to 2020.

A special task in the Strategy of the University of Rijeka is to create qualitative changes in teaching and research by introducing e-learning and providing appropriate ICT infrastructure (computer and software support).

The doctoral course can have its own version in the form of an e-course on the learning management system of the University of Zagreb's *Merlin* (<https://moodle.srce.hr>) so that the teaching and activities of teachers and doctoral students can be partly organized online.

## Learning Outcomes

The doctoral student acquires the highest level of competencies (8.2) according to the Croatian Qualifications Framework Act (CROQF), and they relate to the creation and evaluation of new facts in the field of scientific research, which leads to shifting the boundaries of knowledge. It also develops social skills and independence and responsibility in work.

The specific and generic skills that the doctoral student is expected to develop upon completion of the doctoral study and the preparation of the doctoral dissertation are:

- information gathering skills (literature search, critical reading and detection of bias, interviewing skills, construction of measuring instruments),
- project planning and management skills (drafting of scientific research, organization of research implementation, timely detection of potential problems, determination of necessary funds, management of research team),
- knowledge of statistics and reasoning skills (knowledge of computer work and appropriate programs, knowledge of statistical analysis, skills of statistical reasoning, ability to draw conclusions based on quantitative data),
- writing and reporting skills (speaking and listening skills, ability to present data and findings to an unprofessional audience),
- teaching skills and monitoring and assessment of students,
- the skill of expressing personal professional and ethical authority,
- readiness to take ethical and social responsibility for the success of conducting research, for the social usefulness of research results and for possible social consequences,
- readiness to face new challenges in society and the economy.

## Study Obligations

The study is completely research-oriented. The first year of study is based on direct teaching or organized forms of study (including consultations, learning through e-learning systems, science seminars and discussion groups). The second and third years of doctoral studies are based on a more flexible organization that is independently structured by the student in cooperation with a three-member committee for monitoring the work of the doctoral student (mentor and two other teachers experts in doctoral research). The minimum and a maximum number of ECTS credits are determined for each activity.

Study obligations are divided into teaching obligations, which acquire a minimum of 50 ECTS and a maximum of 55 ECTS credits; scientific research, which acquires a minimum of 100 ECTS and a maximum of 120 ECTS credits, and scientific research and other elective activities, which acquire a minimum of 15 ECTS credits and a maximum of 30 ECTS credits. The study obligations and the number of ECTS credits for individual activities are tabulated.

<b>STUDY OBLIGATIONS</b>	ECTS credits	
	Min	Max
<b>ACADEMIC OBLICATIONS</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>
<i>compulsory subjects</i>	40	40
<i>elective subjects</i>	10	15
<i>participation in teaching undergraduate and graduate studies</i>	5	5
<b>ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (COMPULSORY)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>
<i>public defence of doctoral thesis (dissertation)</i>	5	5
<i>drawing up a research plan</i>	5	5
<i>preliminary research and presentation of the preliminary research results</i>	10	10
<i>research in the field of the doctoral dissertation, preparing the dissertation and public defence of the dissertation</i>	40	45
<i>writing and publishing an internationally peer-reviewed scientific seminar paper/review article in the field of the doctoral dissertation</i>	10	15
<i>individual tutorials with the advisor/mentor</i>	20	20
<i>participation in Journal club</i>	10	20
<b>SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (ELECTIVE)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>participation at domestic / international conference</i>	5	10
<i>research stay at a foreign university</i>	5	10
<i>participation in scientific workshops and summer schools</i>	5	10
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES (ELECTIVE)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>participation in workshops to improve teaching competencies</i>	1	3
<i>activities aimed at the popularization of science</i>	1	2
<b>Define individual activities up to a total of 180 ECTS credits</b>		

Academic obligations include:

- attendance of lectures and examinations in compulsory subjects,
- attendance of lectures and examinations in elective subjects,
- participation in teaching undergraduate and graduate studies.

Compulsory courses are prescribed by the study program, and are an integral part of the modules:

- Module from general research methodology in psychology (common basic methodological subjects: *Methodology of psychological research, Quantitative methods, Measurement theory*) and
- Module in the field of doctoral research (specific subjects related to the field and methodology of doctoral research: *Specific methodology of doctoral research and Field of research: theories and methods*).

- The third module consists of elective courses that are part of the study programme. A doctoral student generally chooses two elective courses related to the topic of their doctoral research. The doctoral student can also enrol in elective courses from postgraduate doctoral studies at other departments of the University of Rijeka and other universities.

Scientific research work consists of drafting and defending a research project, making a synopsis of research, conducting preliminary research and presenting the results of preliminary research and conducting main research, preparation of dissertation and public defence of the dissertation. Scientific research work is evaluated through compulsory and elective additional activities.

Compulsory scientific research activities are:

- public defence of the topic of the doctoral thesis (research project),
- making a synopsis of the doctoral thesis
- implementation of preliminary research and presentation of preliminary research results,
- conducting the main research, preparation of the dissertation and public defence of the dissertation,
- preparation and publication of a review and/or original internationally peer-reviewed scientific paper thematically related to doctoral research, in which the doctoral student is the main author or co-author in a paper published in a scientific journal cited in the *Current Contents* or *Science Citation Index*, or belongs to category a1,
- active participation in a domestic or international scientific conference (oral or poster-presentation in Croatian or English),
- participation in *Journal club*,
- participation in compulsory consultations with a mentor / co-mentor.

Elective scientific research activities are:

- participation in scientific workshops related to the field of doctoral research,
- participation in summer schools related to the field of doctoral research,
- research stay at a foreign university to engage in research work.

The doctoral student can participate in one of the workshops organized by the University of Rijeka on the topic of improving teaching competencies, improving the teaching process or introducing new ways of teaching, and participate in popularizing the profession with lectures or presentations at events as elective activities.

Tabular presentation of the study programme through semesters:

Semester						
I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII. i VIII.
Module: General methodology of research in psychology (15 ECTS)	Module: General methodology of research in psychology (15 ECTS)	Module: Field of the doctoral dissertation (5 ECTS)	Public defence of doctoral thesis (dissertation) (5 ECTS)	Preparation of the dissertation (20 ECTS)	Preparation of the dissertation and defence of the dissertation (20 ECTS)	<b>If necessary:</b> Preparation of the dissertation and defence of the dissertation
Consultations (5 ECTS)	Module: Field of the doctoral dissertation (5 ECTS)	Elective module (10 ECTS)	Synopsis (5 ECTS)	Consultations (5 ECTS)	Consultations (5 ECTS)	
Journal club	Journal club	Journal club	Preliminary research and public presentation of the preliminary research results (10 ECTS)	Additional activities	Additional activities	
Additional activities	Additional activities	Additional activities	Consultations (5 ECTS) Journal club Additional activities			
30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	
<b>180 ECTS</b>						

**First year of the study** - 35 ECTS credits for two modules (*Methodology of psychological research* and *Field of the doctoral dissertation*) which are compulsory courses, and the remaining number of ECTS credits is intended for consultation with a mentor and participation in Journal clubs and compulsory and elective additional activities. *Prerequisite for the 2nd year* - passed exams in all compulsory subjects (30 ECTS) or achieved at least 10 ECTS credits from passed compulsory subjects, participation in discussion groups and other compulsory and elective scientific research and other activities.

**Second year of the study** - defence of the topic of the doctoral thesis (5 ECTS), preparation and submission of synopsis (5 ECTS); elective courses (10 ECTS); implementation and presentation of preliminary research results (10 ECTS), compulsory and elective additional activities. *Prerequisite for the 3rd year* - accepted synopsis, conducted preliminary research and presented results of preliminary research are conditions for enrolment in the third year of study.

**Third year of the study** - conducting a doctoral research and preparation a doctoral dissertation (60 ECTS). If necessary, the fourth year of study can be used to complete a doctoral dissertation. *Prerequisite for applying for the defence of a doctoral dissertation - scientific paper published or accepted for publication independently or in co-authorship with a mentor or co-mentor.*

## Journal Club

One of the forms of work on the doctoral study is Journal club. Journal clubs are educational meetings where doctoral students read, evaluate and discuss relevant scientific papers in the field of psychology. This form of work is common in modern postgraduate studies and is considered to have a number of advantages, including effective monitoring of contemporary scientific trends, familiarity with various methodological procedures, and critical evaluation of psychological research and theories.

Journal clubs will be aligned with students' interests and their research designs. In addition, the Journal clubs plan to host internationally recognized scientists. Participation in one Journal club is valued 1 ECTS credit, and each doctoral student is required to participate in a minimum of 10 Journal clubs and at least once must have an active role in presenting research papers during the first two years of study.

Successful Journal clubs include regular meetings, clearly set goals, mandatory participation, a well-prepared facilitator, insight into the texts before the meeting, materials available on the Internet (e-course) and summaries of individual meetings.

## Individualized Study

The doctoral student, in cooperation with the mentor and the Committee for monitoring their work, chooses the topic of their doctoral research in the field of the mentor / co-mentor. With this principle in mind, two courses from the modules Field of the doctoral dissertation are individually created and organized for each doctoral student - Specific methodology of doctoral research and Research area: Theory and method. In this way, the basic principle of the doctoral study is fully respected, i.e. the focus on research and individual approach in creating a doctoral study programme for each individual doctoral student.

Each doctoral student, in cooperation with the Commission for monitoring their work, creates an individual study plan and program with a list of compulsory and elective activities and the corresponding ECTS credits. The individual study plan and program is proposed to the Doctoral Study Council at the beginning of each academic year. Plans and programs may be approved or rejected by the Council with explanations and proposals for revision.

## Regulations on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka and the University of Rijeka

The Rulebook on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme of the **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka** regulates the structure and implementation of doctoral studies conducted at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the procedure for obtaining the academic degree of Doctor of Science.

The Rulebook contains:

(1) General provisions; (2) Organization of studies and subject areas; (3) Enrolment; (4) Transition from other postgraduate (doctoral) university studies; (5) Study bodies (e.g. role of Advisor or Mentor - general conditions, additional conditions of excellence, obligations, ...). One of the **important** obligations is the **Annual Report of the advisor or mentor**; (6) Rights and obligations of students (e.g. status, maximum length of study, ...). One of the **important** obligations is the **Annual Report of the doctoral student**; (7) Study structure and study obligations; (8) Doctoral dissertation and completion of studies; (9) Transitional and final provisions.

The Regulations on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka is available at:

[https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/files/dokumentifakulteta/Pravilnik\\_o\\_posljediplomskim\\_sp ecijalistickim\\_studijima-2021.pdf](https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/files/dokumentifakulteta/Pravilnik_o_posljediplomskim_sp ecijalistickim_studijima-2021.pdf)

The Regulations on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme of the University of Rijeka regulate in more detail the structure and conduct of postgraduate (doctoral) university studies at the University of Rijeka.

The Regulations contain:

(1) General provisions; (2) Organization and performance of other studies; (3) Doctoral School of the University of Rijeka; (4) Enrolment in other studies; (5) Students; (6) Mentoring; (7) Doctoral dissertation; (8) Procedure for application, evaluation and approval of the topic of another dissertation; (9) Procedure for evaluation and defence of another dissertation; (10) Protection of intellectual property; (11) Revocation of PhD degree; (12) Transitional and final provisions.

The Regulations on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme of the University of Rijeka is available at:

[https://uniri.hr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pravilnik-o-doktorskim-studijima\\_22\\_prosinca\\_2020.pdf](https://uniri.hr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pravilnik-o-doktorskim-studijima_22_prosinca_2020.pdf)



## Useful Links

University of Rijeka – <http://www.uniri.hr>

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka – <http://www.ffri.uniri.hr>

Regulations and documents of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka – <https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/hr/fakultet/propisi-ffri.html>

The Rulebook on Postgraduate University (Doctoral) Study Programme of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka – [https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/files/dokumentifakulteta/Pravilnik\\_o\\_poslijediplomskim\\_pecijalistickim\\_studijima-2021.pdf](https://www.ffri.uniri.hr/files/dokumentifakulteta/Pravilnik_o_poslijediplomskim_pecijalistickim_studijima-2021.pdf)

Department of Psychology – <http://www.ffri.hr/psihologija/>

Postgraduate doctoral programme – <https://www.ffri.hr/psihologija/studiji/poslijediplomski-sveucilisni-doktorski-studij-iz-psihologije.html>

Merlin (e-learning system of the University in Zagreb) – <https://moodle.srce.hr/>

Hrčak (Portal of Croatian scientific and professional journals) – <http://hrcak.srce.hr>

EURODOC (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researches) – <http://www.eurodoc.net/>

MLAZ (Young Scientists Network) – <https://www.mlaz.hr/hr/>

Connect (a virtual square for public dialogue on science and education) – <http://portal.connect.znanost.org/>

Euraxess Croatia - Resarches in Motion – <http://www.euraxess.hr>

Portal with a list of scholarships – <http://www.stipendije.info>

## Contacts

Head of the Postgraduate University  
(Doctoral) Study Programme in Psychology:

Igor Bajšanski, PhD

e-mail: [sibajsan@ffri.uniri.hr](mailto:sibajsan@ffri.uniri.hr)

telephone: +385 (0)51 265 762

Postgraduate Studies Officer (Student  
Service):

Nara Jurčić

e-mail: [nara@ffri.uniri.hr](mailto:nara@ffri.uniri.hr)

telephone. +385 (0)51 265 882

Administrative assistant of the Postgraduate  
University (Doctoral) Study Programme in  
Psychology:

Irena Miletić, P.M.Comp.Eng.

e-mail: [doktorski.psihologija@ffri.uniri.hr](mailto:doktorski.psihologija@ffri.uniri.hr)

telephone: +385 (0)51 265 761

Administrative assistant of the Faculty of  
Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka

Violeta Čaval, mag. iur.

e-mail: [violeta.caval@ffri.uniri.hr](mailto:violeta.caval@ffri.uniri.hr)

telephone. +385 (0)51 265 608

Administrative assistant of the Department of  
Psychology

Anamarija Ivanušić

e-mail: [anamarija.ivanusic@ffri.uniri.hr](mailto:anamarija.ivanusic@ffri.uniri.hr)

telephone. +385 (0)51 265 752





