Doctoral Training Plan

Instructions for writing the Doctoral Training Plan

When applying for admission to the graduate school, the applicant had to present an outline of his/her research plan or a report of the research subject that he/she is interested in. During the first year of doctoral training the student must provide a more detailed Research Plan and a plan for his/her other studies.

The Doctoral student writes his/her personal Doctoral Training Plan together with his/her supervisors. The Doctoral Training Plan consists of A. Research Plan, B. Study Plan, and C. Career Plan. The Research Plan should be written according to the practices and structures of the field. The Research Plan structure of Finnish Academy can be used as an example: http://www.aka.fi/en/funding/how-to-apply/appendices-required/research-plan-guidelines/

The Doctoral Training Plan is officially accepted by the Doctoral Training Committee after the Follow-up Group has recommended its acceptance. After the official acceptance the doctoral student will receive 3 ECTS in WebOodi: 920012J Doctoral Training Plan.

Contents of the Doctoral Training Plan

A. The Research Plan consists typically of the following parts (more information from the link above). The structure may be modified according to the usual requirements of the field.

Cover sheet
Name, Student number, Faculty, Research unit, Major & Doctoral Programme
Supervisors (Full name and title)
Follow-up Group members (Full names and titles)
Title of the research and type of thesis (monograph or article-based)
Study rights start date, date of meeting with the Follow-up Group

2. page
Abstract (obligatory, 1 page max., 2 000–3 000 characters)

3. page – (max. length of this part 10 pages, font size 12 pt)
1. Rationale
2. Objectives and expected results
3. Research methods and material
4. Ethical issues (if relevant)
5. Implementation: schedule of research and studies, distribution of work, and funding plan
6. Research team, supervision, and collaboration (including mobility)

Additionally
Literature / bibliography

B. The Study Plan, Oodi-PSP

The doctoral degree includes a thesis and other studies representing 20–50 credits, depending on the major (http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/studyrequirements). The Personal Study Plan (PSP) is part of the Doctoral Training Plan and is done in WebOodi. At least a draft of the PSP should be attached to the Research Plan.

C. The Career Plan

The Career Plan can be written as a part of the section 2 of the Research Plan by evaluating one’s own learning objectives related to career planning. The other option is to present the Career Plan separately for the follow-up group in the meeting.

The Research Plan should be detailed enough to give the possibility to evaluate the significance and feasibility of the research project. A good research plan can be used, for example, when applying for personal grants. It is also often possible to exploit the summary of the previous research while writing publications and the thesis manuscript. It is recommended that the student writes a good plan and uses the know-how of the supervisors and the Follow-up Group while refining the Research Plan.