Oulu Business School Doctoral Study Guide
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1. Doctoral training in Oulu Business School

The University of Oulu has established a university–wide graduate school (University of Oulu Graduate School, UniOGS), which started its activities on 1.8.2011. The goal of the UniOGS is to provide the framework for the doctoral education of all students at the University of Oulu.

The graduate school’s main task is to provide a high quality doctoral education at the University of Oulu. This implies the adoption of some standardized practices for doctoral education at the University of Oulu, which are expected to lead to changes in the application process for the admission of students, the study requirements, the supervision, the follow-up processes, and the processes related to the doctoral dissertation.

New doctoral students will apply study right for doctoral studies from University of Oulu Graduate School. Current students, who have been granted study rights for doctoral training from a Faculty of the University of Oulu before 01.08.2011, are requested to register in the Graduate school. Please contact Human Sciences coordinator of the Graduate School: PhD Kaisa-Leena Huttunen (kaisa-leena.huttunen@oulu.fi). Additional information can be found from UniOGS webpages: http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs.

Guidelines for doctoral studies can also be found here: http://www.oulu.fi/oulubusinessschool/doctoral_studies.

1.1 Aims of the doctoral training

According to the Goverment Degree (794/2004) the aims of doctoral training are that the student:

1. becomes well-versed in his/her own field of research and its social significance and gains knowledge and skills needed to apply scientific research methods independently and critically and to produce new scientific knowledge within his/her field of research;
2. becomes conversant with the development, basic problems and research methods of his/her own field of research; and
3. gains such knowledge of the general theory of science and of other disciplines relating to his/her own field of research as enables him/her to follow developments in them.

1.2 Postgraduate degrees

In Oulu Business School you can earn a following degrees: Doctor of Science (Economics & Business Administration) or Licentiate degree (see chapter 4: Licentiate degree in Oulu Business School). Students can choose to specialize in one of the following majors: accounting, economics, finance, international business, management and marketing.
1.3 Doctoral study rights

The dean of the Graduate School awards the doctoral study rights based on the recommendation of the doctoral training committee. Each doctoral student must have a principal supervisor in order to be accepted. During the first year of study, the student is also appointed with follow-up group.

The University of Oulu Graduate School may approve an applicant for doctoral education, when the applicant:

1. has completed Master of Science (Economics and Business Administration) degree in Finland and the major subject has been management, international business, economics, accounting, marketing or finance and student is applying study rights in the same major that he/she had in the master’s degree,
2. has completed Master of Science (Economics and Business Administration) degree in Finland and the major subject has been different than previously mentioned ones and applicant has sufficient skills and knowledge for doctoral studies,
3. has completed some other Master of Science degree in Finland and applicant has sufficient skills and knowledge for doctoral studies,
4. has completed abroad a degree equivalent for Master of Science (Economics and Business Administration) and applicant has sufficient skills and knowledge for doctoral studies
5. has completed MBA in Finland or in abroad

Prerequisite for granting a doctoral study right is that previous Master’s degree must have been completed with good grades (at least 60% of maximum grade, or 3/5, in both taught studies and the Master’s thesis). Next chapter describes in detail, how an applicant mentioned in points 2, 3, 4 or 5 need to complete his/hers knowledge before doctoral study right can be granted.

1.4 Bridging studies

Students may be required to take up to 0-30 credits of bridging studies (when student has a university degree, in other cases up to 60 credits may be required).

Bridging studies refer to studies that applicant need to complete in addition to previous degree before the study right can be granted. These studies are designed to ensure the ability of a doctoral student to start postgraduate courses.

1.4.1 Required bridging studies by major

Bridging studies (see Table 1: Bridging studies by major) are required when applicant is applying for different major than what applicant had in his/her Master of Science degree.
# Bridging studies by major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major:</th>
<th>Bridging studies</th>
<th>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>721191S Financial Accounting Theory 6 ECTS and 721195S Advanced Management Control 6 ECTS or 721192S Approaches in Management Accounting Research 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>721320S Economic Theory I, 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>721310S Economic Theory II, 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>721957S Fundamentals of Finance 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>721963S Corporate Finance 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>721383S Asset Pricing 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, international business</td>
<td>721537S Strategizing Practices 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>721538S Internationalization Behaviors 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>721462S Business Networks 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>721460S Marketing Theory 6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition 18 ECTS of studies defined by principal supervisor if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. Bridging studies by major.*

## 1.5 Applying for doctoral study right

Doctoral study right is applied from University of Oulu Graduate School (UniOGS). The application form for new doctoral students can be found from UniOGS webpages: [http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/applicationforms](http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/applicationforms).

More information about applying can be asked from Oulu Business School student affairs, Director of Studies, Oulu Business School professors and UniOGS coordinator.
2. Doctoral study requirements for Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration)

Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration) studies consists of mandatory general studies and field specific studies. Altogether studies consist a total of 50 credits.

In order to graduate with Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration), the student is required to:

1. Pass all the courses included in the degree
   a. General studies organized by UniOGS 4 credits
   b. Field specific studies 46 credits
2. Show independent and critical thinking in his/her own field of research, and
3. Complete the doctoral thesis and defended the thesis at the public defense.

The objective of doctoral studies is to deepen student’s understanding of his/hers field and develop the ability for independent, high-quality research. Therefore doctoral thesis should show evidence that the doctoral student can independently and critically apply scientific research methods and generate new scientific knowledge.

A doctoral thesis can be a compilation of published research articles and manuscripts, and a summary based on these, or it can be a monograph. A compilation-based thesis may include multiple published articles, accepted manuscripts or other manuscripts, but a single article published, or accepted for publication, in a high-quality scientific journal can be sufficient.

The doctoral thesis may contain joint publications, or manuscripts, if the independent contribution of the doctoral student can be clearly demonstrated. A same publication may be included in several theses if the author’s own contribution can be clearly demonstrated and if the author(s) of the other theses in which the article is included give their written permission. The doctoral training should be defined in a way that the doctoral degree can be completed within a time equivalent to four years of full-time studies.

2.1 Doctoral studies

Doctoral studies consist of general studies 4 credits and field specific studies 46 credits, altogether 50 credits (see Figure 1. Doctoral studies in Oulu Business School).
**GENERAL STUDIES 4 credits**
- Introduction to Doctoral Training 1 credit
- Research ethics 2 credits
- Follow-up group meetings and reports 1 credit

**FIELD SPECIFIC STUDIES 46 credits**
- Doctoral Training Plan 3 credits
- Research plan and seminar 1 credit
- Business Theory and Thought course and major specific studies
- Major specific studies 36 credits
  a. Teaching tasks 0-6 credits
     I. Basics of University Pedagogy for Doctoral Students 2 credits
     II. Lectures 2 credits/10h
     III. Exercises 1 credit/10h
     IV. B.Sc. or M.Sc. thesis co-supervision/guidance 0,5 ECTS/thesis
  b. Other major specific studies
     I. National/international tutorial presentation 1 ECTS
     II. National/international conference presentation 1 ECTS
     III. National referred book chapter 1ECTS
     IV. International referred book chapter 1-2 ECTS
     V. National journal article (not included in the thesis) 1-2 ECTS
     VI. International journal article (not included in the thesis) 1-3 ECTS
     VII. Attendance at scientific seminars 0,5 ECTS/10h
     VIII. Participation at lecture course (incl. student's own work) 1 ECTS/10h
     IX. Research visit to another national research institution (+report) 0,5 ECTS/wk
     X. Research visit to an international research institution (+ report) 1,0 ECTS/wk
  c. Method and field specific studies

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**Figure 1. Doctoral studies in Oulu Business School.**

### 2.1.1 General studies

General studies are organized by graduate school. Information about timing and content of the studies are given in WebOodi and UniOGS webpages: [http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/courses](http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/courses). Studies include the following courses:

**General and transferrable skills studies 4 credits: (organized by UniOGS):**
- 920001J Introduction to Doctoral Training 1 credit
- 920002J Research ethics 2 credits
- Follow-up group meetings and reports 1 credit

### 2.1.2 Field specific studies

Field specific studies consist of doctoral training plan, research plan and seminar, Business Theory and Thought course and major specific studies. Table 2 below lists course codes for field specific studies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory studies in Doctoral Degree Programme (10 ECTS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>920012J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722001J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722010J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method and field specific studies (24-36 ECTS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>722130J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722332J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722431J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722531J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722631J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722930J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722101J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722301J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722400J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722500J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722600J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722902J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional studies in Doctoral Degree Programme (0-12 ECTS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional studies, teaching activities (choose 0-6 ECTS, max 6 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920005J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722004J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional studies, other activities (choose 0-10 ECTS, max 10 ECTS)

| 722002J     | Conference, 0,5-2 ECTS                                  |
| 722003J     | Research visit, 0,5-2 ECTS                              |

Table 2. Course codes for field specific studies (46 ECTS).

Oulu Business School organizes yearly compulsory Business Theory and Thought course for doctoral students. Course description can be found below:

**Business Theory and thought:**

**ECTS credits:** 6 credits / 160 hours of work  
**Language of instruction:** English  
**Timing:** B, C, D  
**Learning outcomes:** Upon completion of the course, the student has acquired a deeper understanding of diverse business phenomena and research methods. The student has developed analytical thinking by reading scientific articles, discussing and commenting on them. The student has acquired the skill of critical scientific literature reading and evaluation.  
**Contents:** Six topic specific seminars organized by all departments of OBS.  
**Mode of delivery:** Face-to-face teaching, seminar discussions.  
**Learning activities and teaching methods:** 12 hours of seminars, independent studying 148 hours.  
**Target group:** Doctoral students of OBS.  
**Prerequisites and co-requisites:** Background in business studies  
**Required reading:** List of reading material prior to each seminar
Assessment methods and criteria: Active participation in seminars. Learning diary upon completion of seminars.
Grading: Pass/Fail
Person responsible: Elina Pernu
Work placements: No
Other information: The number of students is limited.

2.1.2.1 Major specific studies

Major specific studies (36 credits) are part of field specific studies. In each major there are at least 24 credits of method and field specific studies defined. Each student makes a detailed plan according to major requirements together with his/hers principal supervisor when writing a doctoral training plan. In addition, a student takes other major specific studies (max 10 credits) and teaching tasks (max 6 credits). General guideline for given ECTS concerning different activities is that 1 ECTS corresponds 27 h work.

2.1.2.1.1 Teaching activities

A doctoral student may include 0-4 credits teaching activities in his/her degree. In that case, he/she must complete 920005J Basics of University Pedagogy for Doctoral Students 2 credits, or equivalent studies. ECTS credits awarded for teaching activities are as follows:

- Lectures 2 ECTS/10h
- Exercises 1 ECTS/10h
- B.Sc. or M.Sc. thesis co-supervision/guidance 0,5 ECTS/thesis (acting as examiner for finished thesis is not sufficient)
  = in total maximum 6 ECTS.

2.1.2.1.2 Other major specific studies

Other major specific studies follow these guidelines:

- National/international tutorial presentation 1 ECTS
- National/international conference presentation 1 ECTS
- National referred book chapter 1ECTS
- International referred book chapter 1-2 ECTS
- National journal article (not included in the thesis) 1-2 ECTS
- International journal article (not included in the thesis) 1-3 ECTS
- Attendance at scientific seminars 0,5 ECTS/10h
- Participation at lecture course (incl. student’s own work) 1 ECTS/10h
- Research visit to another national research institution (+ report) 0,5 ECTS/wk
- Research visit to an international research institution (+ report) 1,0 ECTS/wk
  = in total maximum 10 ECTS (included in major specific studies, in there is space).

2.1.2.1.3. Method and field specific studies

Method and field specific studies are completed at least 24 credits in each major. It is possible that for some student all the 36 credits may consist only from courses (i.e. method and field specific
studies) if principal supervisor sees that it is necessary. Method and field specific studies by each major are described in detail in next chapter.

2.1.2.1.3.1 Management

Method and field specific studies in management are mainly taken through:

- The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses
- European EIASM’s Doctoral Education Network (EDEN) or
- Written reports or exams (e.g. specialisation studies in management, research methodology) approved by principal supervisor.

Studies can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.

2.1.2.1.3.2 International Business

Method and field specific studies in international business are mainly taken through:

- The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses
- European EIASM’s Doctoral Education Network (EDEN) or
- Written reports or exams (e.g. specialisation studies in international business, research methodology) approved by principal supervisor.

Studies can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.

2.1.2.1.3.3 Accounting

Method and field specific studies in accounting are mainly completed through The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses. Corresponding courses can also be completed in European Doctoral Education Network (EDEN).

Acceptable field specific studies for accounting are for example:

- Advanced Financial Statement Analysis 6 credits
- Research in Auditing 6 credits
- North American Research Traditions in Empirical Management Accounting Research 6 credits
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Quantitative Empirical Research in Management Accounting 6 credits
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar in Case-based Research in Management Accounting 6 credits  

Acceptable method studies in accounting are for example:

- Aikasarja-analyysi 9 credits
- Luokittelujen aineistojen analysointi 9 credits
- Pitkilläis- ja paneeliaineistojen analysointi 9 credits
- Multivariate and Econometric analysis 6 credits
• Qualitative Methods in Business Research 6 credits
• Quantitative Approaches to Business Research 6 credits

Studies can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.

2.1.2.1.3.4 Marketing

Method and field specific studies in marketing are mainly taken through:
• The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses
• European EIASM’s Doctoral Education Network (EDEN) or
• Written reports or exams (e.g. Marketing Theory and History 6 credits, Dissertation analysis 3 credits) approved by principal supervisor.

Studies can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.

2.1.2.1.3.5 Finance

All doctoral students in finance take courses according to the study requirements of Graduate School of Finance (GSF, http://gsf.aalto.fi/):
• Theoretical Asset Pricing
• Empirical Asset Pricing
• Theoretical Corporate Finance
• Empirical Corporate Finance

In addition students take 12 credits consisting mainly of two special courses following to the study requirements of Graduate School of Finance or other studies approved by the principal supervisor. By the approval of principal supervisor, these 12 credits can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.

2.1.2.1.3.6 Economics

All doctoral students in finance take courses according to the study requirements of Finnish Doctoral Programme in Economics (FDPE, https://www.fdpe.fi/):
• Microeconomics 8 credits
• Macroeconomics 8 credits
• Econometrics 8 credits

In addition students can take specialisation studies on topics supporting the doctoral thesis or by the approval of principal supervisor, studies can also include a maximum of 10 credits of other studies described in chapters 2.1.2.1.1 and 2.1.2.1.2.
3. Evaluation of the thesis


3.1 Public defence and evaluation of the thesis

The chairperson of the doctoral training committee for Human Sciences nominates at least two pre-examiners to the thesis. The pre-examiners must be from outside the University of Oulu and hold a doctoral degree or be professors. The pre-examiners give written statements (together or separate) recommending that the permission to defend the thesis should be granted, or not. If thesis is a compilation-based thesis, pre-examiners should pay close attention to the quality of each manuscript.

The doctoral training committee for Human Sciences grants permission to defend the Doctoral Thesis based on the examiners’ statements. At the same time as granting the permission, the doctoral training committee for Human Sciences nominates the opponent(s) and the custos. The opponent must be from outside the University of Oulu. It is recommended that the opponent is not one of the pre-examiners. If there are two opponents, one of them may also be a pre-examiner. If the only opponent is one of the pre-examiners, the Dean of UniOGS can give permission to that but the proposal must be clearly justified.

The Doctoral Training Committee makes the decision to approve or reject the doctoral thesis and the grade on the basis of the statements submitted by the pre-examiners and by the opponent(s). There are three grades: 'Fail', 'Pass', and 'Pass with distinction'. The latter is only awarded for exceptionally high-quality theses. To receive a grade of “Pass with distinction”, the thesis should represent the top 15% in its field. If the opponent is proposing this, the statement must conclude with a short separate explanation of why the higher grade should be awarded. The grade of “Pass with distinction” presumes that the thesis is scientifically exceptional, the observations and findings are essentially new, the findings are important to the field, the articles in a compilation-based thesis are published in high-level international series, and the thesis was defended outstandingly during the public examination. Prior to the evaluation and the grading of the thesis, the doctoral student may respond to the opponent’s statement.

3.2 Granting the Degree Certificate

The student can request the degree from the Graduate School by completing the Application for a Degree Certificate, when all study requirements have been fulfilled and have been entered into the transcript of records, and when the thesis has been approved and graded. The dean of the Graduate School grants the doctoral degree. More information about applying for degree certificate can be asked from Director of Studies in Oulu Business School and UniOGS coordinator.
4. Licentiate degree in Oulu Business School

Study right for licentiate degree is applied from Oulu Business School. Education Dean in Oulu Business School grants study rights for licentiate degree.

Each licentiate student must have a principal supervisor. Each student is responsible for finding an appropriate principal supervisor at the University of Oulu. Without a supervisor and his/her commitment letter, the study rights cannot be granted.

Application should be attached with:
- Certified copies of diplomas, degree certificates and transcript of records from the Master’s degree and other possible diplomas.
- Preliminary study plan showing the planned courses and the credits.
- Preliminary research plan for licentiate degree.
- Commitment from the supervisor.

More information about applying can be asked from Director of Studies in Oulu Business School.

4.1 Licentiate degree studies

Licentiate degree studies consist of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Theory and Thought</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major specific studies</td>
<td>36–44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Method and field specific studies</td>
<td>at least 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teaching tasks</td>
<td>0–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other major specific studies</td>
<td>0–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General or minor studies</td>
<td>0–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Licenciate thesis

General studies in licentiate degree can include also general and transferrable skills studies organized by UniOGS (e.g. research ethics) or minor subject studies. In addition student writes licentiate thesis showing independent and critical thinking in his/her own field of research.

4.2 Evaluation and grading of licentiate degree

Licentiate thesis is presented at public seminar at Oulu Business School. Principal supervisor nominates two opponent for the seminar.

The Faculty Education Committee nominates two examiners for the licentiate thesis. One examiner can be from University of Oulu and the other must be from outside the University of Oulu. If thesis
is a compilation-based thesis, examiners should pay close attention to the quality of each manuscript.

The examiners give written statements (together or separately) recommending that the thesis will be accepted, or not. If they recommend that thesis will be accepted, the examiners (together or separately) propose a grade for licentiate thesis. There are three grades: 'Fail', 'Pass', and 'Pass with distinction'.

The Faculty Education Committee makes the decision to approve or reject the thesis based on the examiners’ statements. Oulu Business School grants the degree certificate from Licentiate degree. More information about evaluating and grading the Licentiate thesis can be asked from Director of Studies in Oulu Business School.