



**OULU BUSINESS
SCHOOL**

**UNIVERSITY
OF OULU**



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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. There are some standardized practices for doctoral education, such as 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 1.8.2011, are requested to register in the Graduate School. Please contact Human Sciences Coordinator of the Graduate School: Elina Pernu (uniogs(a)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 Government Decree (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.

Oulu Business School has set following learning goals for the doctoral degree:

Goal 1: The graduates will be experts in their own field of research

Objective 1A: The graduates demonstrate knowledge of the problematics in their own field of research

Objective 1B: The graduates demonstrate knowledge and skills in using research methods in their own field of research

Objective 1C: The graduates demonstrate ability to create new knowledge in their own field of research

Goal 2: The graduates will have competences in interdisciplinary thinking within business and economics

Objective 2A: The students analyze their own research in relation to other disciplines in business and economics

Goal 3: The graduates will have competences in scientific communication

Objective 3A: The graduates demonstrate scientific writing skills in their own field of research

Objective 3B: The graduates demonstrate ability to participate in scientific discussion and debate in their own field of research

1.2 Postgraduate degrees

In Oulu Business School student can earn following degrees: Doctor of Science (Economics & Business Administration) or Licentiate degree (see chapter 4: Licentiate degree in Oulu Business School). Student chooses 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. Requirements for admission are available in UniOGS webpages: http://www oulu.fi/uniogs/requirements_for_admission

Each doctoral student must have a principal supervisor when accepted as a student. The chair of the Doctoral Training Committee formally appoints a follow-up group based on the proposals made by the principal supervisor and the doctoral student.

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.

The applicant may be approved for doctoral education after completing bridging studies, when the applicant:

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.

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 or 4 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 needs to complete **in addition** to previous degree before the study right can be granted. Bridging studies cannot be included in the study requirements of a doctoral degree. These studies are designed to ensure the ability of a doctoral student to start postgraduate courses.

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.

Table 1. Bridging studies by major.

Major in doctoral studies	Required bridging studies
Accounting*	721189S Advanced Financial Statement Analysis 6 ECTS, and 721195S Advanced Management Control 6 ECTS or 721192S Management Accounting Research 6 ECTS
Economics*	721348S Advanced Microeconomics 6 op 721347S Advanced Macroeconomics 6 op
Finance	721957S Fundamentals of Finance 6 ECTS 721963S Corporate Finance 6 ECTS 721383S Asset Pricing 6 ECTS In addition 18 ECTS of other advanced studies defined by principal supervisor if needed.
Management, International business*	721537S Introduction to Strategizing Practices 6 op 721538S International Business Theory 6 op
Marketing*	721469S Business Marketing in Networks 6 op 721460S Marketing Theory 6 op
*In addition 18 ECTS of other advanced studies defined by principal supervisor if needed.	

1.5 Applying for doctoral study right

Doctoral study right is applied from University of Oulu Graduate School (UniOGS). Instructions on how to apply can be found from UniOGS webpages: <http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/node/46726>.

More information can be requested from UniOGS coordinators, Lead Specialist in Academic Affairs and Oulu Business School professors.

2. Doctoral study requirements for Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration)

Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration) studies consists of general education and transferrable skills 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 (total of 50 credits; see Figure 1)
 - a. General education and transferrable skills studies organized by UniOGS 4-14 credits
 - b. Field specific studies 36-46 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/her 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. 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.

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. If a doctoral student has published articles or completed doctoral courses before being admitted to UniOGS, and principal supervisor wishes to include these towards the student's doctoral degree, the principal supervisor needs to confirm that the mandatory doctoral studies and the majority of the doctoral thesis are completed affiliated to University of Oulu. UniOGS has defined the requirements for a doctoral thesis: <http://www oulu.fi/uniogs/thesis>

GENERAL EDUCATION AND TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS STUDIES 4-14 credits (see chapter 2.1)**Mandatory general education and transferrable skills studies 4 credits**

- 920001J Introduction to Doctoral Training 1 credit
- 920002J Research ethics 2 credits
- 920007J Follow-up group meetings and reports 1 credit

Optional general education and transferrable skills studies 0-10 credits**FIELD SPECIFIC STUDIES 36-46 credits (see chapter 2.2)****Mandatory field specific studies 10 credits**

- 920012J Doctoral Training Plan 3 credits
- 722001J Research plan and seminar, seminar 1 credit
- 722010J Business Theory and Thought 6 credits

Major subject studies and methodological studies minimum 24 credits (see 2.2.1)**Optional field specific studies 0-12 credits (see 2.2.1), for example:**

- 722004J Teaching tasks, maximum 4 credits
- 722002J Conference
- 722003J Research visit

Figure 1. Doctoral studies in Oulu Business School.

If a doctoral student has been required to complete bridging studies in addition to previous degree, it should be noticed that bridging studies cannot be included in the study requirements of a doctoral degree.

2.1 General education and transferrable skills studies

The *mandatory* general education and transferrable skills 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>. Mandatory courses are listed in figure 1.

General education and transferrable skills studies can also include *optional* studies. UniOGS courses are offered with a course code 9200XXJ. Doctoral student can choose altogether 0-12 credits of optional studies, of which maximum of 10 credits can be general education and transferrable skills studies.

2.2 Field specific studies

Field specific studies consist of *mandatory* 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 2. Course codes for field specific studies.

Mandatory field specific studies in Doctoral Degree Programme (10 ECTS)	
920012J	Doctoral training plan, 3 ECTS

722001J	Research plan and seminar, seminar, 1 ECTS
722010J	Business Theory and Thought, 6 ECTS
Major subject studies and methodological studies (min. 24 ECTS)	
	Major subject studies
722130J	Accounting, major subject studies
722332J	Economics, major subject studies
722431J	Marketing, major subject studies
722531J	Management, major subject studies
722631J	International business, major subject studies
722930J	Finance, major subject studies
	Methodological studies
722101J	Accounting, research methodology
722301J	Economics, research methodology
722400J	Marketing, research methodology
722500J	Management, research methodology
722600J	International business, research methodology
722902J	Finance, research methodology
Optional field specific studies in Doctoral Degree Programme (0-12 ECTS), for example:	
722004J	Teaching tasks, 0-4 ECTS, max. 4 ECTS
722002J	Conference, 0,5-2 ECTS
722003J	Research visit, 0,5-2 ECTS

The research plan is presented in the Oulu Business School research seminar. (Contact persons: Management, International business, Marketing: Hanna Okkonen; hanna.okkonen(a)oulu.fi; Accounting, Finance, Economics: Tiina Henttu-Aho; tiina.henttu-aho(a)oulu.fi)

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

722010J Business Theory and Thought

ECTS credits: 6 credits / 160 hours of work

Language of instruction: English

Timing: The course is held in the autumn semester, during period II. [Registration.](#)

Learning outcomes: Upon completion of the course the student has:

- developed analytical and interdisciplinary thinking by reading scientific articles and by discussing, commenting on them.
- acquired a deeper understanding of diverse business phenomena, research methods and approaches.
- The student demonstrates ability to analyze his/her own research in relation to other disciplines in business and economics.

Contents: Six topic specific seminars organized by all departments of OBS.

Mode of delivery: Face-to-face teaching and seminar discussions.

Learning activities and teaching methods: 18 hours of seminars and independent studying 142 hours.

Target group: Doctoral students of OBS and other doctoral students of the University of Oulu.

Prerequisites and co-requisites: Background in business studies.

Recommended optional programme components: There is an option of taking seminars one by one. Each seminar equals one credit. To pass the whole course (6 erts) and to be evaluated student must have taken all the seminars and write a final report, which covers all six topic specific seminars.

Required reading: List of reading material after or prior to each seminar.

Assessment methods and criteria: Active participation in seminars, special assignments of each individual seminar and learning diary upon completion of all six seminars.

Grading: Pass/Fail.

Person responsible: Tiina Henttu-Aho.

Other information: The number of students is limited.

2.2.1 Major specific studies

Major specific studies are part of field specific studies. In each major, there are at least 24 credits of defined *method and field specific studies* (courses and publications, see below). It is possible that for some students total of 36 credits may consist only from courses (i.e. method and field specific studies) if principal supervisor sees that it is necessary. Each student makes a detailed plan according to major requirements together with his/her principal supervisor when writing a doctoral training plan. It is recommended that major specific studies comprise of postgraduate studies (doctoral level courses). Maximum of 12 credits advanced level studies ("S" included in the WebOodi course code) can be included in major specific studies, if principal supervisor considers it relevant to include such courses towards the degree. In addition, a student can take *optional major specific studies* (max 12 credits).

General guideline for different activities is that **1 ECTS corresponds 27 h work**.

Table 3 shows the principles for applicable *method and field specific courses* by major.

Table 3. Method and field specific studies by major

Major in doctoral studies	(Examples of) acceptable studies
Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses•European EIASM's Doctoral Education Network (EDEN) <p>Acceptable field specific studies for accounting are for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•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 <p>Acceptable method studies in accounting are for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Aikasarja-analyysi 9 credits

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Luokiteltujen aineistojen analysointi 9 credits •Pitkittäis- 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
Economics	<p>All doctoral students in finance take courses according to the study requirements of Finnish Doctoral Programme in Economics (FDPE, https://www.fdpe.fi/):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Microeconomics 8 credits •Macroeconomics 8 credits •Econometrics 8 credits <p>In addition students can take specialisation studies on topics supporting the doctoral thesis or by the approval of principal supervisor</p>
Finance	<p>All doctoral students in finance take courses according to the study requirements of Graduate School of Finance (GSF, http://gsf.aalto.fi/):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Theoretical Asset Pricing •Empirical Asset Pricing •Theoretical Corporate Finance •Empirical Corporate Finance <p>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 (maximum of 10 credits)</p>
Management, International business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Finnish doctoral program in business studies (KATAJA) courses •European EIASM's Doctoral Education Network (EDEN) •Written reports or exams (e.g. specialisation studies in management, research methodology) approved by principal supervisor.
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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

In addition to these method and field specific studies (described in detail by each major in next chapter), studies can also include credits from publishing according to these guidelines:

- 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

Doctoral student can choose altogether 0-12 credits of **optional studies**, of which maximum of 10 credits can be general education and transferrable skills studies. The optional **field specific** studies will be taken into account following the principles stated below:

Teaching tasks 0-4 credits, max. 4 credits

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 (to be registered as general education and transferrable skills studies). 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)

Conference

Other major specific studies follow these guidelines:

- National/international tutorial presentation 1 ECTS
- National/international conference presentation 1 ECTS
- Attendance at scientific seminars 0,5 ECTS/10h
- Participation at lecture course (incl. student's own work) 1 ECTS/10h

Research visit

Other major specific studies follow these guidelines:

- Research visit to another national research institution (+report) 0,5 ECTS/wk
- Research visit to an international research institution (+ report) 1,0 ECTS/wk

3. Evaluation of the thesis

Evaluation of doctoral thesis is regulated in Universities Act (558/2009), in Government Decree (794/2004) and in the Education Regulations of the University of Oulu.

UniOGS has provided guidelines for the completion of the thesis and finishing a doctoral degree. Detailed instructions for the final stages of the doctoral degree process is available in the document “The final stages of the doctoral degree process”: <http://www oulu.fi/uniogs/formslibrary>.

The student can request the degree from the Graduate School by completing an electronic application. This is possible after all study requirements have been fulfilled and entered into the transcript of records, and when the thesis has been approved and graded by the Human Sciences Doctoral Training Committee. The Dean of the Graduate School grants the doctoral degree. More information about applying for the degree certificate can be requested from UniOGS Coordinator or Lead Specialist in Academic Affairs.

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 Lead Specialist at Academic Affairs.

4.1 Licentiate degree studies

Licentiate degree studies consist of the following courses:

Business Theory and Thought	6 ECTS
Major specific studies	36–44 ECTS
Method and field specific studies	at least 24 ECTS
Teaching tasks	0–4 ECTS
Other major specific studies	0–12 ECTS
General or minor studies	0–8 ECTS
<u>Total:</u>	<u>50 ECTS</u>

+ Licentiate 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. Additionally 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.