



Doctoral Education in Finland

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Kaisa Laitinen, D Sci (Agr & For), Head of Academis Affairs

Higher Education Institutions in Finland

HEIs are designated universities by Finnish legislation. Only these universities have the right to confer the degrees of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees.

Multidisciplinary universities are

- University of Helsinki, Åbo Akademi University, University of Turku, University of Tampere, University of Jyväskylä, University of Oulu, University of Vaasa, University of Lapland, University of Eastern Finland, Aalto University

Specialized universities with full university status are

- Hanken School of Economics, Tampere University of Technology, Lappeenranta University of Technology, National Defence University, University of the Arts Helsinki.

Higher Education Institutions dealing with doctoral education in Finland

- All are state universities
- Yearly 1840 doctorates (2015-2017), where international ca. 10%
- Universities have organized doctoral education in one or more doctoral schools
- Doctoral schools have doctoral programmes
- Variety in administrative organization and local regulation

Doctoral degrees at Finnish universities

assessed by the Decree-level national regulations

Doctor of Medical Science

Doctor of Dental Science

Doctor of Health Sciences

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)

Doctor of Science (Econ. & Business Admin)

Doctor of Science (Agriculture & Forestry)

Doctor of Science (Technology)/(Architecture)

Doctor of Food Sciences

Doctor of Laws

Doctor of Music

Doctor of Fine Arts

Doctor of Arts (Art & Design)

Doctor of Arts (Dance)

Doctor of Arts (Theatre & Drama)

Doctor of Theology

Doctor of Administrative Sciences

Doctor of Social Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy (Education)

Doctor of Philosophy (Sport & Health Sciences)

Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

Doctor of Philosophy

Admission criteria for doctoral studies

Universities act: Eligible applicants for studies leading to an academic or artistic licentiate or doctoral degree have completed

- a relevant *Master's degree* awarded by a university;
- a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university of applied sciences; or
- a relevant applicable study programme abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education.
- The university may require a student to complete the necessary *supplementary studies* in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the study programme.
- Eligibility for studies referred to in this section may also apply to a person whom the university deems otherwise to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.

Formal teaching (courses)

- 20 – 75 ECTS, depending on the field of science, the university and faculty (University autonomy)
- Typically required studies include:
 - majority of studies in the major and related subjects including research seminar activities ((international) workshop, summer school) but also
 - studies in transferrable skills like *research ethics*, methodology, philosophy of science, project management, writing a research proposal, scientific writing, career planning etc.
 - new E-learning courses have been promoted in national co-operation

Other training activities and study right

- amount and practices of training activities expected varies as well as optional/ mandatory
- Optional exchange/ internship period, workshops or other activities abroad or kind of own tuition.
- Also, internship/ employee period in a company may be included (technical programmes).
- **Duration of period between enrolment and viva** is unlimited, no legal limitation for duration of doctoral study right.
- Nominal time is counted to be 4 academic years in full time, but realism is typically 6 years.

Supervisors, quality of it and progress evaluation

- Supervisors are *professors* or other scientifically experienced researchers with doctoral degree, typically *two or three supervisors* for a doctoral student. Scientific excellence is the first criteria, but also ability to guide the doctoral path and lead the merited research group. Productivity, positions after doctoral degree, scientific articles. Supervision agreement is widely used.
- The common practice is to evaluate the candidate's *progress once a year or every other year*, but not necessarily that systematic. The monitoring may be connected to the funding processes of the doctoral students. The supervisor or the group of supervisors or the monitoring group are the giving their evaluation on the progress and suggestions for the future.

Doctoral students

- Typically university or research project funded positions of early stage researcher
- Also stipend –funding, part-time doctoral studies
- International students, availability of support including funding
- No tuition fees

Specific requirements for theses

- The form can be a *monograph* or a *set of scientific refereed published articles* with a substantial summary.
- The minimum of scientific articles varies (three, where more than half shall be published articles in refereed journals).
- Most typically completed in Finnish, Swedish or English language. In some cases other languages are accepted. If the scientific articles are basis of in the thesis, priority is in English language.
- The *tool for plagiarism detection* is obligatory to use during the thesis process.

Monitoring, registration and evaluation

- Supervision agreement/ training of supervisors
- Students shall register themselves for the academic semesters as present - or absent
- Students and doctorates have possibilities to give *feedback* also in general inquiries as well as in national inquiries
- Also *employment* of new doctors is monitored yearly (nationally every other year)

Quality aspects:

- Doctoral schools as part of the quality audits at university
- Universities can have own doctoral education evaluations

Requirements for viva

By Decree 794/2004 Requisite components of the doctorate degree:

- To be awarded a doctorate, the student must: (1) complete the required postgraduate studies; (2) demonstrate independent and critical thinking in the field of research; and (3) write a doctoral dissertation and defend it in public.
- As a doctoral dissertation may also be approved a number of scientific publications or manuscripts vetted for publication deemed sufficient by the university which deal with the same set of problems and a paper summarising the findings or some other work which meets corresponding scientific criteria. The publications may include co-authored publications if the author's independent contribution to them can be demonstrated.
- Specified requirements by university

Conditions for viva

- *Pre-examination* process for ms before viva (are professors outside the institution). The pre-examiner gives his/ her unconditional proposal the process will go to the next step. *An opponent or opponents during the public defence* on the thesis. No panel teams.
- Assessment of theses vary depending on the university. The evaluation is completed in a Board (Faculty Council/ Board of (doctoral) Education) meeting on the basis of the statements of opponent, pre-examiners and custos.
- The process considering regulations regarding cum laude varies between the universities - the best 10-15% of the theses
- Apply for a degree

Regulations regarding joint or double degrees

- always the *certification is given in Finnish or in Swedish*. Also, when the degree was completed by some other language, the English title for degree shall be given.
- degree certificate shall contain information on *all the degrees awarded on the basis of the same studies*, the degree certificates awarded with reference to the degrees completed and the universities awarding the degrees
- the higher education institutions are required by law to give a *Diploma Supplement* to all their graduates automatically, in English and free of charge. The Diploma Supplement gives information on university, degree certificate, curriculum and studies as well as their level and status in the National HE System.

Other current issues

- Open science, digital processes, responsibility in science
- Admission processes in Studyinfo.fi
- Supporting supervising – supervisors and students
- Supporting employment of PhD's
- Doctoral student welfare
- Practical support for international doctoral candidates

UEF// 2 *campuses*

JOENSUU
KUOPIO

4

faculties

Philosophical Faculty
JOENSUU

Faculty of Science and Forestry

JOENSUU | KUOPIO

Faculty of Health Sciences
KUOPIO

Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies

JOENSUU | KUOPIO

#54

Times Higher Education Young University Rankings

15,500

DEGREE STUDENTS

15,400

ADULT EDUCATION STUDENTS

2,500

STAFF MEMBERS

300

Ranked in the top 300 universities in the world in several fields

13

fields of study

100

DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND MAJOR SUBJECTS

3,015

DEGREES, including 163 doctoral degrees (2017)

1,700

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND DEGREE STUDENTS EVERY YEAR

uef.fi

University of Eastern Finland

- 1 750 doctoral students
- Yearly 168 PhDs, where 27% for non-Finnish candidates
- From degree students 7,5% are international degree students typically from Russia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nigeria.

Kiitos!
Thank you!



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EASTERN FINLAND

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