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| Logo  Description automatically generated  **SOFIA UNIVERSITY** "**ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI**" | |
| **FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES AND THE ARTS** | |
| **C U R R I C U L U M** | |
| Signed by:.........................................  *RECTOR of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"* | Approved by the Academic Council  Record of Proceedings No. ................/ ................ |
|  | |
| **Higher Education Area: 1. Educational Sciences**  **Professional Field: 1.2. Pedagogy** | |
|  | |
| **Doctoral Programme: „Special Education“** | |
| Educational and Qualification Degree: **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)** | |
|  | |
| *Form of study: (F) - full-time / (P) - part-time / (I) - individual form of study* | |
| *Duration of studies (years):* ***(F)*** *- 3 years /* ***(P)*** *- 4 years /* ***(I)*** *- 5 years* | |

## QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTION

**І. ANNOTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

**А. GENERAL**

**The Doctoral Programme** „Special Education“ aims at promotion of the scientific and teaching competence of the PhD students in higher education area Educational Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Education). It complies with the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and qualification degree "PhD", that is regulated in the Higher Education Act, the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" and other normative acts, arranging their implementation.

The programme prepares professionals in special education and inclusive education by developing their research skills, specific competencies for the highest level of teaching and learning.

The training of PhD students is based on the highest traditions of Bulgarian and international experience in training highly qualified specialists in the field of special education and inclusive education, as well as on the implementation of innovative approaches in the process of mastering the methods of theoretical and empirical research.

The Doctoral Programme „Special Education“ has a **study period** of up to 3 years for full-time, up to 4 years for part-time and up to 5 years for individual form of study. The training is carried out by the Department of „Special Education“ of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts.

The training can be delivered in **Bulgarian or English**, according to the request of the PhD candidate, as the language of training is fixed at the time of admission of the PhD candidate and is not subject to change.

**The main learning goals of** the EQD Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in „Special Education“ are:

* To ensure highly qualified researchers and practitioners in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* To prepare well-trained teachers for the objectives of the department and the faculty as a guarantee of continuity and improvement of the quality of training in order to meet the current challenges in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* To prepare well-trained professionals with the skills to identify problems and goals, to conduct research, to analyze, interpret and evaluate current topics and issues in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* To train researchers, competent in the problems and perspectives of development in special education and inclusive education, educational standards, the quality of education of children and students with special educational needs and other children-subjects of special work and inclusion, the provision of general and additional support for personal development and the overall implementation of the concept of inclusive education;
* To prepare highly qualified professionals with skills to present, publish and disseminate scientific knowledge, data and research findings in the field of special education and inclusive education.

**The objectives** of the doctoral programme „Special Education“ are:

* To provide training for PhD students, aimed at broadening and deepening theoretical knowledge, focused on newest research and trends in the development of the scientific field.
* To maintain high standards for the realisation of research in the relevant professional field, using modern research methods, tools and techniques and information and communication technologies;
* To ensure opportunities for individual and co-authored publications with department and faculty members and other national and foreign researchers;
* To provide conditions for the publication of significant scientific publications in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* To provide opportunities for mobility of PhD students through the development of scientific cooperation with other higher education institutions and scientific organizations in the country and abroad.

## B. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Training in the Doctoral Programme „Special Education“ at the Department of „Special Education“ is characterized by a balanced combination of the fundamentality and universality of training and the applied aspects of professional activity.

The curriculum is structured in a way that facilitates achievement of the set educational and research objectives to the fullest extent, allowing flexibility at the same time. The training can be delivered in both Bulgarian and English.

The structure of the curriculum is modular. The number of modules is five. In each module a certain number of credits is earned according to the form of study, and at the end of the training the PhD student must have gained a minimum of 180 ECTS credits.

## Description of the modules:

1. **The Training module** includes:

* Doctoral examinations in the specialty (for ***F, P, I***) and foreign language (only for ***F, P***), required by the Higher Education Act;
* Compulsory PhD students courses, ensuring fundamental knowledge and skills in realisation of the research and teaching the relevant subject;
* Elective PhD students courses in the scientific field of the doctoral programme, as well as courses forming specific research skills and competencies.

The list of compulsory and elective courses, delivered in Bulgarian, is contained in Appendix №1, and the courses, delivered in English, are listed in Appendix №2. Both appendices are an integral part of this curriculum and may be updated and supplemented annually. Each PhD course is conducted according to a curriculum approved by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts.

The general curriculum of the doctoral programme (***F, P, I***) provides a basic minimum of disciplines, allowing flexibility and freedom of choice of the PhD student to include in his/her individual study plan compulsory and elective courses from those, specified in Appendix №1 or Appendix №2 (according to the language of study).

**The compulsory courses** in the curriculum are fundamental for the scientific research training of PhD students. They aim at forming basic competences for developing the PhD thesis and conducting scientific research, promoting academic writing skills, implementation of research approaches and technologies, etc., and a fundamental knowledge of special education and inclusive education.

Compulsory courses offered by both the Department of Special Education and other departments in the FESA may be chosen in order a wide range of knowledge, skills and competencies in educational science and practice, directly or implicitly related to special education and inclusive education to be acquired.

With the **elective courses** offered the curriculum ensures each PhD student to achieve a narrow specialization in certain thematic areas, depending on individual interests and research priorities. The curriculum also reflects the needs, stemming from the specificities of the future workplaces of the PhD graduates, including the academic field.

**2. The Research module** includes:

* Work on the PhD thesis;
* Publications and project activities:
* Publications related to the PhD thesis topic;
* Participation in scientific forums in the country and abroad;
* Participation in scientific and research university/faculty, national and international projects.

Completion of the full course of study in the Doctoral Programme Doctoral Programme „Special Education“ ensures the acquisition of in-depth theoretical training and the formation of skills for carrying out scientific and applied work - both independently by the PhD student and in a team. It also provides an opportunity to build the potential for gaining research experience in project activities in the chosen field of knowledge.

**3. Module "Teaching activity“**

According to the current Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", educational activity can be assigned to full-time PhD students after passing the compulsory doctoral exams, and further can be performed by part-time PhD students and PhD students in individual form of study who are willing.

1. **Module "Additional activities"** relates to participation in the academic activities of the department, including the performance of administrative and auxiliary activities.

PhD students may be engaged as invigilators in the conduct of semester examinations in disciplines conducted by their supervisor; invigilators in the conduct of candidate doctoral and state written examinations; to assist in the organization and conduct of scientific forums and public events of the faculty or department, to which they are assigned; to participate as members of faculty and university committees, etc.

## Module "PhD thesis Defence"

## A PhD student *(F, P, I*) who has passed the examinations and has earned the credits (ECTS) provided for in the curriculum, and who has submitted a PhD thesis, containing scientific or scientifically applied results that constitute an original contribution to science, is admitted to official/public defence. The PhD thesis must demonstrate that the candidate has a thorough theoretical knowledge in the field of the doctoral programme, as well as the capacity to perform independent research. The PhD thesis must be free of any evidence of plagiarism and/or unreliable empirical data.

## C. DOCUMENTS

**The documents** for the EQD Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Faculty of Education Sciences and Arts have been developed in accordance with the current regulations, governing the training in this degree. The supervisor and the head of the department ensure that PhD students meet the deadlines and fulfilled their obligations.

The current training documents comprise:

1. Curriculum for the Doctoral Programme "Preschool Education" (*F, P, I*).
2. PhD student's individual study plan for the duration of the doctoral studies, including detailed plans by year.
3. Annual report and attestation of the PhD student.
4. Quarterly report (for full-time PhD students).
5. Record of passing the PhD minimum exams in the specialty.
6. Record of passing the PhD minimum exam in a foreign language (for full-time and part-time PhD students).
7. Record of passing the curriculum examinations (compulsory and elective courses).
8. List of compulsory and elective courses, offered in the PhD programme in Bulgarian - Appendix №1.
9. List of compulsory and elective courses, offered in the PhD programme in English - Appendix №2.
10. Curriculum in Bulgarian language for each compulsory or elective course, listed in Appendix №1.
11. Curriculum in English for each compulsory or elective elective course, listed in Appendix 2.

Appendix No 1 and Appendix No 2 are an integral part of the curriculum and may be updated and supplemented annually, with changes approved by the Faculty Board, along with the respective syllabus.

## II. EXPECTED RESULTS

As a result of successful completion of the full course of study offered in the Doctoral Programme „Special Education“ and in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework for the EQD Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Level 8, the PhD student is expected to acquire the following knowledge, skills and competencies:

1. **KNOWLEDGE**

* Knowledge of the current status, problems and newest trends in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* Extensive specialized knowledge in specific areas related to the PhD thesis and the scientific field of the Doctoral Programme „Special Education“;
* Knowledge and competence to find and fill research gaps in the field of special education and inclusive education and competence to assess the need for new relevant research and publications;
* Special and systematic knowledge to perform critical analysis and to synthesize new ideas;
* Knowledge of the research methods in the field;
* Ability to extend and modify existing knowledge in the field, as well as its interdisciplinary aspects with frontier scientific fields;
* Knowledge of the highest degree of sophistication and realisation of original research;
* Knowledge and understanding at the highest level, not only in the field of the Doctoral Programme „Special Education“; but also in related research areas;
* Demonstrated and expressed knowledge, evidenced by the complexity of conducted, understood and well substantiated research.

1. **SKILLS**

* Skills for independent knowledge acquisition and the ability to generate new ideas in solving educational, research and practical problems, including in interdisciplinary fields and related educational areas;
* Ability to systematize, summarize and critically analyse scientific and practical acquis in the field of special education and inclusive education;
* Skills in presenting and promoting research results to the professional community in the form of scientific papers and articles, research reports and project proposals;
* Skills to create and coordinate networks or teams, allocate time, and solve complex problems, employing new technological methods and tools;
* Skills to solve and overcome critical problems in the field of research and/or innovation, to improve standard models and approaches, to develop innovative solutions by combining different original strategies and technologies, to improve standard models and approaches;
* Mastered methods and tools to anticipate changes and problems, to keep impartial attitude to the environment and think innovatively, to develop new ideas and transform them in a rational plan and bring them to successful implementation, to acquire new qualities and skills quickly, to anticipate technological and creative development, to write and present scientific and technical documents (scientific articles, abstracts, papers, figures, graphics, etc.); to promote his/her research through various media to different audiences;
* Skills as resilience, entrepreneurship, tenacity, robustness, adaptability and cognitive flexibility.

1. **COMPETENCIES** 
   1. **AUTONOMY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

* Creation and interpretation of new knowledge through own research or other scientific activity;
* Demonstrated ability to extend the scope of previous research and outline the research gaps, based on the new knowledge gained;
* Ability to self-evaluate the acquis of the research work;
* Ability to compose, design, perform and adapt a state-of-art research process with scientific robustness.
  1. **LEARNING COMPETENCES**
* Demonstrated capacity to systematically acquisition and understanding wide range of knowledge from state-of-the-art research or professional practice.
  1. **COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL COMPETENCES**
* Personal competencies for work in research teams and research projects management;
* Demonstrated qualities and transferable skills, evidencing high personal responsibility, self-initiative in complex and unpredictable circumstances in a professional or equivalent setting;
* Demonstrated general abilities to conceptualize, design and execute projects to generate new knowledge, apply or understand state-of-the-art developments, and adapt project design to newly emerging circumstances;
* Proficiently and fluent communication in the most common European and other foreign languages and mastered specialized scientific terminology in the field of special education and inclusive education.
  1. **PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES**
* Ability to design and implement complex research, including in interdisciplinary areas, using contemporary research methods for the purposes of special education and inclusive education;
* Competencies for the effective use of bibliographic information; for work with specialized sources of statistical information; for data collecting, processing, managing and analysis; for the effective presentation and dissemination of results;
* Teaching competencies in disciplines related to special education and inclusive education;
* Detailed understanding of techniques applied to research and complex academic studies;
* Informed judgements on complex issues in the relevant field, often in the absence of complete data, and presentation of ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialists and non-specialists;
* Ability to pursue research in a relevant scientific field at increasingly sophisticated levels, contributing to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches.

## ІІI. REALISATION OF GRADUATES

Graduates of the doctoral programme "Special Education" can be employed in academic institutions, research institutes and organizations, educational institutions and training and methodological centres, ministries and departments, regional and national inspectorates of education, public administration in the field of education, NGOs in the educational sector, mainstream and special education institutions, institutions working with young people and adults with special needs, etc., in the country and worldwide.

The professional realization of the graduates of the doctoral programme includes taking up positions as lecturers in higher education institutions, researchers in higher education institutions, researchers in research organizations and centers, managers in various educational institutions and centers, experts and specialists in administrative and management organizations in the field of education in the government and non-government sector, etc. at national and international level.

# І. TRAINING ACTIVITY

***Compulsory minimum ECTS credits - depending on the form of study:***

***60 ECTS (F; P) and 35 ECTS (I)***

1. **DOCTORAL MINIMUM**

***Compulsory minimum ECTS credits - depending on the form of study: 30 ECTS (F; P) and 20 ECTS (I)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the study discipline** | **Type of PhD course** | **Form of evaluation** | **ECTS**  **credits** | **Hours** | | | **All compulsory classes** | **Distribution**  **by years** |
| **lectures** | **seminars** | **extracurricular**  **workload** |
| **Doctoral exam in the specialty -** " Special Education"  *The examination shall be conducted according to a syllabus approved by the Dean, based on the proposal of the department to which the PhD student is assigned.* | C | exam | 20 | no | no | 600 | 600 | First |
| **Doctoral exam in a foreign language**  *The examination is compulsory for PhD students in full-time and part-time studies.* | C | exam | 10 | no | no | 300 | 300 | First |

## COMPULSORY PHD COURSES

***Required minimum ECTS credits - depending on form of study: 20 ECTS (F, P) and 10 ECTS (I)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study discipline** | | Type of PhD course | **Form of evaluation** | **ECTS**  **credits** | **Hours** | | | **All compulsory classes** | **Distribution**  **by years** |
| **lectures** | **seminars** | **extracurricular workload** |
| **Compulsory PhD course**  **- I:** | | З | exam | 10 | 30 | no | 270 | 300 | first or second | |
| - a course, chosen from Appendix 1, Part I - for training in Bulgarian; | - a course chosen from Appendix 2, Part I - for training in English; |
| **Compulsory PhD course - II\*:** | | З | exam | 10 | 30 | no | 270 | 300 | first or second | |
| - a course, chosen from Appendix 1, Part I - for training in Bulgarian; | - a course, chosen from Appendix 2, Part I - for training in English; |
| *(\*not required for individual form of studies)* | |

## Notes:

*1) The list of offered compulsory courses for PhD students with studies in Bulgarian is contained in Appendix №1, Part I, and the list of offered compulsory courses for PhD students with studies in English is contained in Appendix №2, Part I. Both Appendices may be supplemented and updated annually, subject to approval by the Faculty Council.*

*2) In agreement with the supervisor, PhD students in (****F****) and (****P****) choose a minimum of two required PhD courses, and those in (****I)*** *choose one.*

*3) In addition to the courses in Appendix No. 1, Part II and Appendix No. 2, Part II, in agreement with the supervisor and after approval by the Departmental Council, the individual study plan may include courses delivered:*

*- by the Doctoral School of Sofia University;*

*- by other faculties of SU;*

*- by other universities, with which St. Kl. Ohridski" has agreements for cooperation, including Erasmus+ student mobility.*

*4) The grades of the compulsory PhD courses shall be certified by a report to be completed by the lecturer and submitted to the inspector, responsible for PhD students, within 10 working days after the examination.*

## ELECTIVE PHD COURSES

***Required minimum ECTS credits - depending on form of study: 10 ECTS (F, P) and 5 ECTS (I)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study discipline** | | **Type of PhD course** | **Form of evaluation** | **ECTS**  **credits** | **Hours** | | | **All compulsory classes** | **Distribution**  **by years** |
| **lectures** | **seminars** | **extracurricular workload** |
| **PhD Elective Course - I:** | | **E** | exam | 5 | 30 | no | 120 | 150 | Current |
| - a course, chosen from Appendix 1, Part II - for training in Bulgarian; | - a course, chosen from Appendix 2, Part II - for training in English; |
| 15 | 15 |
| **PhD Elective Course - II\*:** | | **E** | exam | 5 | 30 | no | 120 | 150 | Current |
| - a course, chosen from Appendix 1, Part II - for training in Bulgarian; | - a course, chosen from Appendix 2, Part II - for training in English; |
| 15 | 15 |
| *(\*not required for individual form)* | |

## Notes:

*1) The list of the proposed elective courses for PhD students with studies in Bulgarian is contained in Appendix №1, Part II, and the list of the proposed elective courses for PhD students with studies in English is contained in Appendix №2, Part II. Both appendices may be supplemented and updated annually, subject to approval by the Faculty Council.*

*2) In addition to elective courses with a 30-hour lecture course, the curriculum includes the option of including courses with a 15-hour lecture course and 15-hour practicum course.*

*3) At the discretion of the PhD student and supervisor, PhD students in (****F****) and* ***(P****) choose a minimum of two PhD elective courses, and those in (****I****) choose one.*

*4) In addition to the courses in Appendix No. 1, Part II and Appendix No. 2, Part II, in agreement with the supervisor and after approval by the Departmental Council, the individual study plan may also include courses delivered:*

*- by the Doctoral School of Sofia University;*

*- by other faculties of SU;*

*- by other universities with which SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" has cooperation agreements, including Erasmus+ student mobility.*

*5) The grades of the PhD elective courses shall be certified by a report to be completed by the instructor and submitted to the inspector, responsible for PhD students, within 10 working days after the examination.*

# II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

# *Compulsory minimum ECTS credits - depending on the form of study:*

# *85 ECTS (F); 88 (P) and 113 ECTS for (I*)

1. **PhD THESIS WORK**

***Compulsory minimum ECTS credits - depending on the form of study: 55 ECTS (F), 58 ECTS (P) and 83 ECTS (I)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description of the activity | **ECTS credits** | **Report** |
| **Preparation of the PhD thesis** (development of the structure of the PhD thesis; literature review and review of other information sources; preparatory and auxiliary activities related to the PhD thesis - collection and processing empirical materials, etc.; preparation and presentation of separate parts of the PhD thesis to the supervisor, etc.**)**. | 40 credits for *F*;  43 credits for *P;*  23 credits for *I*    (for the entire period of study) | Current |
| **Preliminary version of the completed PhD thesis** **submitted to the supervisor and prepared for discussion at the Departmental Council** | 15 | Last  year |
| **Work on the PhD thesis** **project, submitted upon enrolment in the individual form of study *(only for I)*** | 45 | First  year |

## PUBLICATION AND PROJECT ACTIVITY

***Compulsory minimum of 30 ECTS credits from the subsection "Publications on the PhD thesis topic" - for all forms of study (F, P, I)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Publications on the PhD thesis topic** | **ECTS credits** | **Report** |
| Studies published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information | 45/n per publication | Current |
| Articles and papers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information | 30/n per publication | Current |
| Published chapter of a collective monograph | 20/n per publication | Current |
| Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes | 15/n per publication | Current |
| Articles and papers published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes | 10/n per publication | Current |
| **Participation with papers in scientific forums** | | |
| Participation in a scientific forum in the country | 5/n per participation/report | Current |
| Participation in a scientific forum abroad | 10/n per participation/report | Current |
| **Participation in scientific and applied projects** | | |
| Participation in a university/faculty research or applied science project | 10 per participation | Current |
| Participation in a national scientific or applied project | 15 per participation | Current |
| Participation in an international scientific and applied project | 20 per participation | Current |

## Notes:

*1. According to the Regulations for the Implementation of the* Act*on*Development*of the*Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, the minimum number of points that the PhD student must collect from publications on the topic of the PhD thesis before the preliminary defence is 30 points. In the present curriculum one point is equated to one ECTS**credit.*

*2. In the case of publications/co-authored articles, credits are recalculated according to the number of authors - "n" is the number of authors of the respective publication*

*3. Credits obtained from activities under the subsections Participation in scientific forums and Participation in scientific and applied projects**are not compulsory and are earned over and above the 180 credits for the entire period of study.*

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# III. TEACHING ACTIVITY

***Compulsory minimum 3 ECTS credits*** ***(F only)*** */ optional for (****P****) and (****I****)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description of the activity | **ECTS credits** | **Distribution by years** |
| **Assignment of university teaching activities to full-time PhD students (up to 45 hours per academic year without payment)** | 1 credit for 30 hours | after passing the doctoral exam |
| **Supporting work with graduates** | 1 credit per year | after passing the doctoral exam |
| **Assisting the supervisor/tutor in the preparation of methodological materials related to the university teaching process** | 1 credit per activity per year | after passing the doctoral exam |
| **Assisting the supervisor in conducting semester examinations** | 1 credit per year | after passing the doctoral exam |
| **PhD student's extra-university academic activity (participation as a lecturer in trainings, courses, seminars, workshops, etc.; methodological activity in educational and social institutions, etc.).** | 1 credit for 30 hours | Current |

Notes:

*1) Teaching activity is set on the basis of Article 59, paragraph 2 of the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", according to which, after passing the examinations of the individual study plan, a full-time PhD student may be assigned teaching activity, 45 hours per academic year are without pay, and the remainder of 45 to 120 hours per academic year are with pay.*

*2) The doctoral student's non-university teaching activity shall be certified by an official document (letter, certificate, official note, etc.) issued by the educational, social or cultural institution where it was conducted. The document shall clearly indicate the doctoral student's role, the nature and duration of the activity and its duration in teaching hours.*

# IV. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

***Compulsory minimum 2 ECTS credits for all forms of study (F, P, I)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description of the activity | **ECTS credits** | **Distribution by years** |
| **Participation in the meetings of the departmental council, where issues related to the doctoral studies are discussed** | 1 credit per year | Current |
| **Participation in university and faculty committees** | 1 credit for participation in a committee | Current |
| **Assignment of administrative work (**participation as a invigilator **in semester examinations in disciplines conducted by their supervisor; in state written examinations in the Faculty, doctoral candidate examinations, etc.).** | 1 credit per year | Current |
| **Participation in organizing and conducting seminars, meetings, conferences and other initiatives of the faculty or department** | 2 credits per activity | Current |
| **Participation in an artistic performance** | 1 credit per activity | Current |

**Remark:**

*The additional activities are set on the basis of Art. 1 of the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".*

# V. PHD THESIS DEFENSE

***Compulsory 30 ECTS credits for all forms of study (F, P, I)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description of the activity | **ECTS credits** | **Report** |
| **Conducting a preliminary discussion of the PhD thesis in the department, followed by a decision of the Faculty Council public defense procedure to be initiated** | 15 | following the opening of a public defence procedure |
| **Public defense** | 15 | after a successful public defence |

Notes:

*1) The credits earned, specified in the curriculum, are in accordance with Regulation No 21/2004 on the application of the system for accumulation and transfer of credits in higher education institutions. In the case of the doctoral student's implementation of the individual study plan, it is possible variation with preliminary gaining of more than 60 ECTS credits per academic year or, in the event of objective difficulties in the implementation of the planned activity, to compensate them during in a subsequent year of study.*

*2) This curriculum provides a compulsory minimum of* ***5400*** *hours and corresponds to* ***180*** *ECTS credits.*

*3) The PhD student is admitted to preliminary defence upon the earning the required 150 credits in the first 4 modules of this curriculum.*

*4) On the basis of this curriculum, each PhD student prepares, together with his/her supervisor, an individual study plan for the entire period of study not later than three months after enrolment, in accordance with the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". 5) At the end of each doctoral year, an annual report shall be submitted by the PhD student and an attestation by his/her supervisor on the work, carried out according to the individual studyplan and, if changes are necessary, the amendments shall be discussed and approved by the Departmental Council and submitted to the Faculty Council of FESA for approval.*

*6) A PhD student who has successfully passed the examinations, specified in the individual study plan, has completed the minimum number of credits in relation to his/her form of study, has graduated with the right to defend, has prepared a PhD thesis and meets the minimum national requirements, is eligible to defend his/her PhD thesis for the award of EQD Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).*

The curriculum was adopted by a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts with record of proceedings No. ....../..........2023.

DEAN:

/Prof. Milen Zamfirov, DSc/