

The main functional goal of the Doctoral School at the University of Silesia in Katowice, hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral School, is to provide doctoral students with optimum research conditions. As they gradually acquire research competencies and improve in terms of scientific independence, they should also seek to develop social skills and competencies expected of a doctoral student, including those pertaining to project management, research group management, team working within a research group, teaching of students, public speaking, formulating research hypotheses or critical reading of scientific papers. Furthermore, the Doctoral School should function as the means to develop selected qualifications matching the demands of the labour market outside of the academia.

The main premises underlying the curriculum are as follows:

- the curriculum comprises compulsory courses identical to all doctoral students, compulsory courses to be passed by the given doctoral student under an individual research programme, and optional courses depending on the specificity of the given discipline or the needs of the given group of doctoral students, as well as doctoral seminars,
- the programme of classes (besides the research activity) under the compulsory courses comprises no more than averagely 8 hours a week (120 hours of classes per academic year); it mainly addresses the development of communication competencies, knowledge transfer related competencies, educational competencies connected with both teaching and learning, as well as project activity competencies, including managerial and advisory competencies,
- learning outcomes are verified through exams or by granting credits – most of verification is held in project mode,
- classes under the compulsory courses are organised in integrated blocks,
- optional courses are delivered in the 1st and 2nd year of studies,
- starting from the 3rd year of studies, Doctoral School seminars covering individuals fields are held on a cyclic basis to enable presentation of research results,
- the School's programme includes classes held under a summer school (including an option of inviting acclaimed scientists as visiting professors and specialists in soft skills, including non-academics),
- the courses Methodology of scientific research, Teaching in higher education schools, Ethics in research, Research project preparation and implementation and Doctoral workshop – research plan presentation PhD student must be passed in until the mid-term evaluation (by the end of the second year of education), other courses can be passed in by the end of the fourth year of education.
- each year, the compulsory and optional courses attended by doctoral students are subject to evaluation,
- the curriculum may be extended with courses in fields proposed by doctoral students,
- it is planned that part of the compulsory classes are to be organised as e-learning courses,
- the scope of the doctoral seminar results from the specificity of the scientific research, and may involve the doctoral student's participation in specialisation classes, as indicated by the supervisor
- an education of each PhD students is subject to evaluation every year.

The Doctoral School students are required to obtain at least 240 ECTS points over the entire cycle.

Doctoral School curriculum starting from the academic year 2020/2021:

Compulsory courses:

Courses:	Description	Learning outcomes	Type of classes	Mode of verification of learning outcomes	Number of hours in the academic year				ECTS
					I	II	III	IV	
Methodology of scientific research (for each field separately)	Introducing doctoral students to different aspects of organisation of scientific activity.	P8S_WG; P8S_UW	discussion classes	credit	30				5
Teaching in higher education schools (for each field separately)	Course dedicated to doctoral students perceived as prospective academic teachers for whom proficiency in planning of an efficient educational process in a higher education school is a prerequisite professional competence. The classes address problems of contemporary teaching in general, complemented by selected components of psychology and sociology, providing grounds for establishing methodological principles of an academic teacher's work. The classes include discussion on different aspects of teaching people in early adulthood. The course curriculum also covers problems of the regularities and conditions of the teaching and learning process.	P8S_UK; P8S_UU	discussion classes	credit	25	5			4
Ethics in research	Introducing doctoral students to the broad spectrum of contemporary problems related to ethics in research, with special emphasis on the issues of plagiarism, the related standards and good scientific practice, as well as standards and legal requirements pertaining to protection of persons involved in research and personal data processing.	P8S_WK; P8S_KR	discussion classes	credit	15				2
Research project preparation and implementation (research grants)	Introducing doctoral students to the basic notions connected with preparation and implementation of various research projects, including ways to manage projects.	P8S_WG; P8S_UW; P8S_UO; P8S_UU; P8S_KR	discussion classes	credit	36				5
Scientific career planning and personal development	Enhancing various soft competencies required for planning and developing scientific career as well as enabling efficient collaboration in research teams (including interdisciplinary and international ones).	P8S_UK; P8S_UO; P8S_UU	discussion classes	credit	15				2
Intellectual property rights and copyrights	Providing doctoral students with general knowledge on individual problems and the Polish legal regulations concerning protection of intellectual property against European and international laws. The doctoral students will be introduced to selected legal acts regulating the matters of protection of artistic, literary and scientific property (copyrights), and the chosen case law examples. What will also be discussed is the legal acts regulating the matters of industrial property protection along with some related court decisions.	P8S_WK; P8S_KR	discussion classes	credit		15			2
Doctoral workshop – research plan presentation (for each field separately)	At the workshop, doctoral students are required to present individual research plans and results of their own studies.	P8S_UO; P8S_UU; P8S_UK	workshop	credit		15			2
Academic English (for each field separately)	Doctoral students are being prepared to process scientific papers in the English language, to independently discuss research results, to prepare publications and speeches in English, and to communicate with foreign researchers.	P8S_UK	discussion classes	credit		60			4
Developing scientific papers and critical text analysis (for each field separately)	Introducing doctoral students to different forms of scientific papers and developing the ability to analyse texts in a critical manner. The classes will prepare doctoral students to writing of various texts, including dissertations, essays, articles, reports as well as funding applications. They will also be instructed on the ways to deliver	P8S_UW; P8S_UK; P8S_KK; P8S_KO	discussion classes	credit		30			4

field separately)	information concerning their research through popular science.								
Self-presentation and dissemination of research findings	Introducing doctoral students to the contemporary channels of scientific research dissemination, and enhancing their ability to present research findings through popular science.	P8S_UK; P8S_UU	workshop	credit		15			2
Expert tutoring	The course will comprise meetings between the doctoral student and an academic teacher whose scientific achievements match the doctoral student's interests, as chosen by the former and agreed with the supervisor. Among other goals, the course is intended to assist the doctoral student in building methodological foundations for the doctoral dissertation.	P8S_UU; P8S_UK	tutoring	credit	*	*	*	*	9
Optional courses	Assisted by the supervisor, doctoral students choose specialisation courses based on an individual research plan. The courses are picked from a list of modules prepared by the Doctoral School or available under Master's studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice or elsewhere.	P8S_UU; P8S_UW; P8S_WG	*	credit	*	*	*	*	9
Doctoral seminar	Working towards preparation of a research plan, and enabling the doctoral student to develop a doctoral dissertation concept with the supervisor's subject matter related assistance, followed by independent writing of the dissertation with the supervisor's scientific assistance. The purpose of the seminar is also to improve the doctoral student's proficiency in the area of scientific methodology, including the ability to use scientific literature, perform scientific research, write and document scientific papers.	P8S_WG; P8S_UW; P8S_KR; P8S_UU	seminar	credit	30	30	30	30	160
Professional practice	Professional practice is aimed at introducing PhD students to the role of academic teacher. PhD students have a chance to put into practice the knowledge from the course Teaching in higher education schools. First-year PhD students co-conduct classes at least 10 hours, PhD students of higher years implement practice from 10 hours co-conducted to 60 hours conducted.	P8S_UU P8S_KO		credit	10-60	10-60	10-60	10-60	30
				Total:	211	155	30	30	197
					During whole cycle of education:30 hours of Expert tutoring + Optional classes, Professional practice				
					456 + Optional classes, Professional practice				

Besides receiving credits for the compulsory courses, each doctoral student is obliged to:

- 1) implement an individual research plan and prepare the doctoral dissertation,
- 2) pursue individual forms of scientific activity (especially by participating in scientific conferences, workshops, doctoral seminars and research seminars),
- 3) at least once during education present results of their own research by delivering a speech at a field-specific seminar organised by the Doctoral School,
- 4) at least once during education present results of their own research by delivering a speech in a foreign language at a field-specific seminar organised by the Doctoral School.

The party responsible for preparing the selection of optional courses for the given academic year is the Dean of the Doctoral School. The list of optional courses is approved by the Council of the Doctoral School prior to the beginning of the given academic year upon a request filed by the Dean of the Doctoral School, following its positive consideration by the doctoral students' self-government.