

Doctoral School of Sociology and Communication Science Training Program

Valid: For students who start in the fall semester of 2024/2025

Persons responsible for the program:

- a) Prof. Dr. Zsuzsanna Elekes, Head of the Doctoral School
- b) Prof. Dr. Tamás Bartus, Director of the Sociology program
- c) Prof. Dr. Réka Benczes, Director of the Communication Science program

Place of the training: Budapest

Training schedule: full-time

Language of the training: English

Fields: Sociology, Communication and Media Sciences

Duration: 8 semesters

Number of credits to be completed: 240 credits

1. Training objectives and professional competences

Individuals with a doctoral (PhD) degree possess:

A deep knowledge of the generalities and specificities, the major directions and well-defined boundaries, the agreed upon and contested contexts of sociology and communication and media studies.

A creative understanding of the contexts, theories and the conceptual systems and terminology that underpin the discipline or field of study.

The ability to identify areas and topics requiring research and to formulate research problems.

The knowledge of research methodology necessary for independent research in their chosen field, and are able to apply and further develop the specific methods of knowledge acquisition and problem-solving in the field of their specialisation.

The ability to carry out creative and in-depth analyses of the field, to formulate synthetic and new approaches to broad and specific issues and to evaluate and critique them.

The ability to design and implement new projects, to conduct research in a given discipline, to develop new techniques and approaches.

The ability to identify unforeseen professional problems and to explore the detailed theoretical and practical background at the level of research needed to solve them.

The ability to develop and initiate new areas of knowledge and to initiate new practices with creative autonomy.

An interest and learning capacity to identify and solve unforeseen research problems in the field.

A strong professional commitment, a persistent dedication to the search for new paths, and an acceptance of the need for perseverance.

The ability to take a leadership role and to engage in a high level of collaboration in the formulation of theoretical and practical questions.

The ability to assume an equal role as a discussion partner with professionals in the field.

The ability to take responsibility for raising and responding to new ethical issues in relation to the theory and practice of their profession.

2. Credits to be acquired during the training

Credit Type	Semester								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Study credit	12	12	12	12	--	--	--	--	48
Research credit	15	15	15	15	25	25	25	25	160
Other credits::	12				20				32
- Teaching credits & Teaching-related activities and service credits	12				20				22
- Additional research credit					20				20
Total	120				120				240

Study credits are awarded for the completion of subjects included in the curriculum. The syllabus can be found on the last page of this document. In addition, the student may earn additional study credits by completing the courses of other Doctoral Programs of the University.

Research credits can be obtained according to the following rules:

- a) Submission of work plan for the given semester upon consultation with the supervisor, within 30 days of the commencement of the study period. The work plan should include the following: research activity planned for the semester (along with the schedule); any problems arising during research, support expected from the supervisor, expected results of research (e.g. publication, conference presentation),
- b) Submission of the progress report two (2) weeks before the end of the examination period. The progress report covers the following: description of the research activity carried out during the semester, progress in doctoral research, research and publication achievements (e.g. participation in conference, publications), teaching activity carried out, assessment of working relationship with the supervisor, any personal or material problems and any assistance required to address them,
- c) favourable assessment from the supervisor. A supervisory assessment is deemed favourable if the supervisor confirms regular consultations and progress made by the student,
- d) presentation held at the research forum,
- e) participation in a thesis proposal discussion or a public defence at least once in every semester.

Teaching credits are awarded for teaching a full course in a BA/MA program.

Teaching-related activities and service credits can be awarded for the following activities: thesis or TDK paper supervision, thesis review, mentoring, teaching assistance (e.g. correcting home assignments, exam papers, developing teaching materials, compiling exam questions), participation in committee work (e.g. admission, TDK, final exams), assistance in conference organisation, and any further teaching-related and/or service activity as agreed upon with the Program Director.

Additional research credit (20 credits) may be awarded once for the doctoral student's research-related performance above the expected level, for any of the following:

- a) a journal article with a Q1-Q3 rating in the discipline-specific Scimago list;
- b) in the Sociology Program, a journal article that has a domestic A-B rating in the list of journals of the Committee on Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, or
- c) in the Communication Science Program, a journal article that has a domestic A-B rating in the applicable journal list of the Communication Science Program;

- d) a book chapter published by a publisher listed in the Corvinus Research Excellence Award eligible publications list;
- e) Successful thesis proposal discussion in the last active semester of the research and dissertation phase.

3. The comprehensive exam

The comprehensive exam ends the four-semester long study and research phase. The possible outcomes are “passed” or “fail”. In the event of “fail”, the exam can be re-taken at the end of the same semester.

During the comprehensive exam students need to provide evidence for the following:

- a) Awareness of the scientific problems, theories, results and methodological dilemmas and solutions related to their research field,
- b) Ability to formulate relevant and researchable questions based on the theoretical, methodological and research background related to their research field,
- c) Thorough consideration of the schedule, procedure and feasibility of the doctoral research,
- d)
- e) Capability of publishing and presenting their research in the form of a dissertation.

The comprehensive exam has two parts: a) theoretical-methodological part; and b) dissertation part. In the theoretical-methodological part of the comprehensive examination, doctoral students are assessed for their theoretical and methodological competence in writing and/or orally, as related to their research topic. In the dissertation part, students present and defend their research plan: the objectives and the relevance of their research, the research questions and potential hypotheses, the planned research methodology and the workplan.

The comprehensive exam hinges upon the research proposal. The research proposal should cover the following:

- a) delimitation of the research topic, research questions/purposes and potential hypotheses,
- b) scientific relevance of the research questions/purposes and novelty of research as based on the relevant academic literature,
- c) a review and summary synthesis of the relevant literature, theoretical and research background,
- d) detailed presentation and justification of the research methods to be used in the research, arguments for choosing the method in question, any ethical dilemmas, manner of handling research ethics issues,
- e) expected results, significance and implications of research, limitations of the research,
- f) workplan,
- g) publication strategy.

Length: min. 55,000 and max. 75,000 characters with spaces, not including title page, table of contents, references, appendix and any figures or graphs.

4. Publication requirements for the degree

At the time of submission of the dissertation, the doctoral candidate must have at least 1 journal article, which fulfils the following criteria:

- a) has been published or accepted for publication in at least a Q3 journal according to the relevant Scimago list,
- b) the doctoral candidate is the first author,
- c) the article was written during the time of the doctoral studies,
- d) besides the doctoral candidate, there is only one further co-author,
- e) the article reports on results related to the doctoral research.

The publication requirement may not be fulfilled by an article with which the doctoral student has earned the additional research credit (see above).

5. The thesis proposal and the dissertation

The submission of the doctoral dissertation is preceded by the discussion of the thesis proposal, which is the first version of the dissertation. The objective of this discussion is to provide invaluable feedback before the submission of the dissertation. The thesis proposal must conform to all the formal requirements of the doctoral dissertation, which are the following:

- a) The dissertation seeks to answer well-formulated and empirically testable research questions. The theoretical (and eventual societal or practical) relevance of the research is justified with reference to relevant academic literature. The eventual hypotheses are clear and empirically testable.
- b) The dissertation includes a focused and comprehensive review of the relevant theories, research findings and methodological issues. The literature review is structured along the research questions and permit the development of a new perspective.
- c) With regard to research methodology, the dissertation justifies the choice of the research approach and specific methods, presents a detailed description of the procedures employed and discusses the limitations.
- d) The dissertation presents the research findings in a detailed and structured manner.
- e) The dissertation presents the contributions to the research field and any open questions that need further investigation.

The dissertation may take the form of a monograph or a series of articles (and/or book chapters). As regards its format, both the dissertation and the thesis proposal must comply with the requirements of the specific field of study. Expected length of the thesis proposal and the dissertation: 100-150 pages (without title page, ToC, figures, graphs, tables, appendix, references).

6. The doctoral degree

The doctoral degree is awarded on the condition of the following:

- a) the absolutorium;
- b) publication requirements are met (see above)
- c) successful defence of the dissertation
- d) proof of payment of financial obligations (comprehensive exam fee, defence fee, etc.),
- e) no outstanding payment obligations exist towards the University.

7. The grade of the doctoral degree

The doctoral defence (the doctoral dissertation and the responses to questions during the public defence) is evaluated by the Doctoral Committee. Members of the Committee grade the defence independently on a four-grade scale (*Summa cum laude*, *Cum laude*, *Rite*, *Insufficiente*)

The grade of the defence is

- a) *summa cum laude*, if all votes are at least *cum laude* and the majority of votes (at least 2 votes in the case of 4 votes) are *summa cum laude*
- b) *cum laude* if no more than one vote is *rite*, all other votes are at least *cum laude*
- c) *insufficiente* (inadmissible) if at least two members of the committee grade it as *insufficiente*
- d) *rite* in all other cases

The decision on awarding the degree on the proposal of the Doctoral Committee is made by the University Doctoral Council. .

8. Curriculum (courses and credits in the first four semesters)

Subject name	Responsible prof.	N of seminars per week	Fall semester 2024/2025	Spring semester 2024/2025	Fall semester 2025/2026	Spring semester 2025/2026
Core courses, Communication Science program			12	12	6	6
Contemporary Concepts of Communication	Lajos Kovács	2	6			
Writing the Literature Review	Lilla Petronella Szabó	2	6			
Advanced Research Methodology in Communication	Andrea Kárpáti	2		6		
Social Media and Communication	Jessie Labov	2		6		
Current Trends in Communication Research I.	Tamás Bokor	2			6	
Current Trends in Communication Research II.	Réka Benczes	2				6
Core courses, Sociology program			12	6	6	6
Theory and Research: Good and Questionable Practices	Tamás Bartus	2	6			
Literature Review I. Getting Started with Literature Review	Adél Pásztor	2	6			
Research Seminar II. Writing the Literature Review	Beáta Nagy	2		6		
Research Seminar III. From literature review to research questions	Zsuzsanna Elekes	2			6	
Research Seminar IV. Research Design	Lilla Vicsek	2				6
Core electives*			0	0/6	6	6
Field Research	Pál Nyíri	2	2		2	
In-Depth Interviewing: Advanced Methods	Adél Pásztor	2	2		2	
Qualitative Data Analysis with nVivo	Lilla Vicsek	2		2		2
Good and Questionable Practices of Quantitative Data Analysis	Tamás Bartus	2		2		2
Total credits:			12	12	12	12

* Subjects offered by other doctoral schools of the University can also be taken up and count as core elective subjects