

Quality Assurance Regulations
Doctoral School of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Pécs
2025

The Doctoral School of Chemistry operates according to the University Doctoral Regulations of the University of Pécs and other higher-level regulations. These regulations define the organizational framework of the PhD program, as well as the admission requirements and procedures for obtaining the PhD degree. Based on the main principles and control points associated with each section, the tasks of decision-makers and responsible persons are precisely outlined.

Organizational Framework of the PhD Program

After applying for the program, students undergo an entrance examination, which is evaluated by the Admission Committee. The scoring system used in the PhD admission process ensures that students with the best academic performance and demonstrated scientific activity during their university studies are admitted. The scoring system gives only minimal preference to programs currently without PhD students. Applicants are admitted in the order determined by the total number of points achieved, ensuring that the most talented candidates are selected. High-quality participation in research work is ensured jointly by supervisors and instructors. The entire staff of the Doctoral School is responsible for providing all students access to the necessary infrastructural and financial resources. Fulfilment of the requirements set for instructors and supervisors is monitored by the Doctoral School Council in accordance with the rules of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee based on each instructor's job description. It is recommended that applicants be distributed evenly among the available supervisors. The maximum number of doctoral students assigned to a single supervisor is determined annually by the Doctoral School Council.

The suitability of supervisors is evaluated according to Hungarian Accreditation Committee principles when research topics are announced. Courses offered by instructors are approved by the Doctoral School of Chemistry Council in accordance with the School's training plan. Updating the range and content of courses each year, as well as introducing new courses, is the responsibility of the school's instructors, under the supervision of the Doctoral School of

Chemistry Council. Completion of credit-based courses is monitored by the Council, which evaluates performance. The method of assessment is determined individually by course instructors but may be reviewed by the Council. Theoretical courses are considered completed when the student receives a “pass” grade in the exam before the instructor(s). In case of a “fail” assessment, one retake exam is permitted. Practical courses are considered completed when the instructor confirms successful participation.

The Doctoral School Council continuously supervises the work of PhD students and their supervisors based on the semester reports submitted. At regular Doctoral Forums and departmental seminars, students report on their progress and participate in discussions. When evaluating unsatisfactory work, the DSC Council provides professional recommendations to both the supervisor and the doctoral student.

Participation in professional activities at national and international levels is ensured through attendance at conferences prescribed by supervisors. Supervisors are obliged to support participation in foreign study visits and professional internships.

The Doctoral School Council supervises the annual review of research topics. Acquisition of new instruments, books, databases, and the continuous improvement of infrastructure are the duties of the school leaders and core members. Members of the Doctoral School must also support the invitation of domestic and international lecturers.

For students enrolled after September 2016, the comprehensive examination consists of two subject exams and a research report. The appointed evaluation committee issues an overall “pass” or “fail” grade. Only students who pass may progress to the research and dissertation phase. Doctoral students may obtain the final certificate (absolutor) after earning the required academic credits and completing their research work. Based on the supervisor’s written recommendation, the Head of School requests its issuance from the Academic Office.

For individually preparing doctoral candidates, the initiation of the degree-obtaining procedure may be permitted if the professional requirements set by the DSC Council are met.

Requirements of the PhD Degree-Obtaining Procedure

The quality assurance regulations for obtaining a PhD degree are defined in the University Doctoral Regulations of the University of Pécs. According to these requirements, the student must publish at least one first-author original article in a peer-reviewed journal with an impact

factor, and the total impact factor of the dissertation's publications must reach at least 3.5. The student must actively participate in professional events, write a thesis that reflects a coherent scientific concept, and successfully defend it before external reviewers and the Defense Committee.

For earning the PhD degree, students must hold a state-accredited English language exam at least at intermediate (B2) level.