# Curriculum of doctoral programme in psychology 2020-2024

The degree consists of four study components (total of 40 ECTS) and the dissertation research. The student discusses and agrees with the supervisors on the contents of each component and how many credits per study component he/she plans to attain. In general, all studies must be at least advanced-level studies. An exception to this rule can be, for example, supplementing or updating methodological skills by first taking courses on the subject/intermediate level. The components include the following (Rector’s decision 12 Dec 2016) :1) Discipline specific skills; 2) Research competence; 3) Communication skills; 4) Other competence to support the construction of professional expertise.

The completed parts of study components are valid for 10 years. Parts of study components, such as courses completed more than 10 years ago, can be accepted to form a part of the degree in exceptional cases. Following section 33 in the Degree Regulations of the University of Jyväskylä, previous studies or competences otherwise achieved may be recognized as forming a part of the doctoral degree. The recognition of prior learning must always be based on documented proof. The recognition is proposed by the student and the supervisors. The dean of the faculty approves/rejects the recognition.

The studies should be planned so that they support and enhance the student’s previous competences and that the ways of completing credits are diverse (generally, one component should not be accomplished only by, for example, taking exams, conference presentations or writing essays). When planning the studies, attention should be paid to the following: the total number of credits attained is 40, the studies support the research work and it is possible to complete them as expected.

The Methodology Centre for Human Sciences and other organizers offer different courses in different years. It is recommended that the students start with participating in an orientation event organized by the Faculty.

Codes PSYJxxxx used below refer to the study plan and are used also in Sisu programme.

1. **PSYJ1200 Discipline specific skills**

**Credits**: 20 ECTS

**Competence aims**:

• to have knowledge of scientific research and discussions relevant to the topic of the dissertation research

• ability to participate in the international scientific exchange of ideas

**Content**:

* Relevant literature and at least subject level courses, presenting at scientific conferences and seminars as well as publishing in scientific journals.
* Researcher mobility which supports the doctoral research

**Method of study**:

* The studies consist of exams/essays on the literature, presenting the dissertation research in scientific conferences or seminars, writing publications (other than those included in the article-based dissertation) and participation in doctoral courses, active participation in research seminars (max 5 ECTS), furthering studies and dissertation research. Participation in an international seminar, report or study diary related to researcher mobility.

**Assessment**: pass – fail  
**Assessment criteria**: to be agreed with the supervisors

*Examples of study credits to be achieved*

• 2 ECTS – Presentation in a scientific conference: Own paper in a conference abroad (student’s strong contribution, reviewed and accepted abstract, new knowledge)

1 ECTS presentation in a scientific conference in Finland

• 0.5 ECTS – participation in a scientific conference without a presentation, learning diary approved by a supervisor

• 0.5 /1 ECTS - acting as a chairperson/ coordinating a national or international symposium in a conference or seminar.

• 0.5 ECTS (maximum of 4 ECTS) – Scientific presentations on the same topic in seminars where participants are not from the same research group in which the study is carried out.

• 1 ECTS - A poster, in a foreign language

• 0.5 ECTS - A poster in Finnish

• 1 ECTS-1.5 ECTS - The first author in a proceedings article based on conference presentation not included in an article-based dissertation. The number of credits gained depending on the language of the article and on the effort needed to produce it.

• 0.5 ECTS credits: one of the authors in a proceedings article based on a conference presentation

1. **PSYJ1300 Research competence**

**Credits**: 10-13 ECTS

**Competence aims**:

• familiarity with methodology and the basic research methods used in psychology and have the ability to use some specific qualitative, quantitative, and in the doctoral programme historic or theoretical methods

• know the ethical guidelines of good scientific practice and be able to recognize and analyze ethical issues in different phases and areas of research (obligatory content, 3 ECTS)

• understand the general premises of scientific theory (obligatory content, 3ECTS)

• understand the specific nature and development of psychology

• skills needed in running a research project; scientific publication

• open science (obligatory content, 1 ECTS)

**Content**:

• the studies typically consist of the obligatory studies of research ethics (3 ECTS), theory of science/philosophy of science (3 ECTS), and open science (1 ECTS) (e,g, LIBJ1011 Open Science Resource) as well as courses on qualitative, quantitative methods and/or mixed methods. Studies planned by the student her/himself and approved by the supervisor can be included.

**Method of study**: Courses (e.g. Methodology Centre for Human Sciences, IHME), independent studying (essays, learning diaries, assignments), seminars, scientific journals, conference presentations and posters, scientific expert tasks, project work and supervision.

**Assessment**: pass - fail

**Assessment criteria**: To be agreed with the supervisors.

**3. PSYJ1400 Other competence to support the construction of professional expertise**

**Credits**: 5 ECTS

**Competence aims**:

* have the ability to act as an expert in the field of the doctoral dissertation in research-based development, teaching, and planning tasks in multiprofessional groups
* have the ability to participate in research-based pedagogical activities / possess pedagogical competence in higher education
* have the skills and capabilities needed in building a professional academic career (e.g. project management skills, managerial skills, interaction skills as well as skills related to information and communication technology)

**Content**:

• pedagogical skills, leadership skills, entrepreneurial skills, skills related to quality assurance or development, knowledge of working life.

**Method of study**:

• Tasks as an expert: planning, teaching and developing tasks in departments and projects of the University

• Tasks serving the interests of society at large: significant development tasks in society and/or academic pedagogical studies in your field or study

• Courses, guest lectures, meetings developing your expertise in the field, approved as part of the studies by the supervisors.

**Assessment**: pass - fail

**Assessment criteria**: To be agreed with the supervisors.

*Examples of study credits to be achieved*

* max. 3 ECTS credits /project: working as a project researcher or assistant in the field related to the topic of dissertation
* 0.5 - 1ECTS credits: participating in the planning of new research projects
* max. 2 ECTS credits: expert tasks related to the topic of the dissertation, such as teaching an advanced level method course (not including the teaching tasks of the position of doctoral student)

1. **PSYJ1500 Communication skills**

**Credits**: 2-5 ECTS

**Competence aims**: have the ability to communicate using Finnish or at least one other language in spoken or written form in academic contexts

**Content**: Scientific writing and communicating, interactional skills, language skills and intercultural skills, media skills, performance skills.

**Method of study**: Scientific writing and courses related to that or oral scientific presentations. *Obligatory content*: a minimum of 2 ECTS from a course or study module organized for example the Centre for Academic Multilingual Communication Movi

*Examples of study credits to be achieved*:

Oral presentation in an international conference, 2 ECTS

Poster in an international conference, 1 ECTS

Oral presentation in a national conference, 1 ECTS

Tasks, such as learning diaries related to doctoral research, 1 ECTS

Chairing/coordinating in international or national conference, 1 ECTS

Scientific presentation to audiences other than the research group, 1 ECTS

**Assessment**: pass - fail

**Assessment criteria**: To be agreed with the supervisors

**PSYJ1100 Doctoral dissertation**

**Competence aims**:

• Upon completing the dissertation research, the student is capable of

* + conducting independent, scientific research in one’s own field of science
  + evaluate scientific psychological research

**Content**: Carrying out scientific research guided by the supervisors. The research topic falls within the fields of research strength of the faculty’s research strategy.

**Assessment**: fail – pass –pass with honours

The assessment must take into account the variation in the research orientations of doctoral dissertations and apply the criteria below accordingly. In the final assessment of the dissertation, the following criteria are used (rated by 1-5 points).

1. Topic, explication of the research problem and questions
2. Theoretical background and concepts
3. Methods
4. Reporting of results and findings as well as answering to the research questions
5. Interpretation and discussion of the results
6. Significance and applicability of results
7. Validity, reliability, credibility, transferability, confirmability of the study and ethical issues
8. Language and coherence of reporting
9. Independence as a researcher
10. Ability to argue for the dissertation at the public defense