

**PRINCIPLES
OF ORGANIZATION, EVALUATION, AND COMPLETION OF DOCTORAL STUDY AND PRINCIPLES OF
ESTABLISHING SUBJECT COMMITTEES OF DOCTORAL STUDY AT
THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KOŠICE**

In accordance with § 9, section 1, item b) and § 15, section 1, item m) of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and with Act No. 269/2018 Coll. on Quality Assurance in Higher Education, as amended, the Academic Senate of the Technical University of Košice approved these Principles of Organization, Evaluation, and Completion of Doctoral Study and of Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University in Košice as an internal regulation of the University, which is an integral part of the Internal Quality Assurance System of Higher Education at the Technical University of Košice and Standards for Study Programs at the Technical University of Košice:

Article 1

General provisions

- (1) Doctoral study is a third-level study program of higher education. The general requirements of this study are regulated by § 54 of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and Amendments to Certain Acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), as amended.
- (2) The admission procedure is defined in § 54, section 5 et seq. § 58 of the Act and Annex No. 1 of the Statute of the Technical University in Košice (hereinafter referred to as "TUKE").
- (3) Doctoral study can be organized in daily (internal, full-time) and external (part-time) form. The standard length of study in a doctoral study program is:
 - a) In the daily form three or four academic years; the number of credits required for the proper completion of studies for a PhD study program in the daily form of study with the standard length of study is:
 1. 180 credits for three academic years,
 2. 240 credits for four academic years.
 - b) In the external form four or five academic years; the number of credits required for the proper completion of studies for a PhD study program in the external form of study with the standard length of study is:
 1. 180 credits for four academic years,
 2. 240 credits for five academic years.
- (4) Doctoral study is carried out according to an individual study plan under the guidance of a supervisor.
- (5) The condition for the proper completion of doctoral studies is the defense of a dissertation thesis, which is the final work. The dissertation thesis and its defense form one subject. The defense of the dissertation thesis is a state examination (§ 51, section 3 of the Act).
- (6) The degrees awarded to graduates, the documents submitted to them and the method of their submission are defined by law and the TUKE Statute.

Article 2

Management and supervision of doctoral study at TUKE

- (1) The level and provision of doctoral studies are evaluated at the faculty level by the Scientific or Artistic Board of the Faculty (hereinafter referred to as "VR of the Faculty" or "UR of the Faculty"), at the university level by the Scientific Board of TUKE (hereinafter referred to as "TUKE VR") at least once a year based on the reports submitted by the relevant Vice-Dean (at the faculty level) or the Vice-Rector (at the university level).
- (2) Doctoral study in a given field of study is monitored and evaluated by subject committees (hereinafter referred to as "OK") established for individual fields of study pursuant to § 54, section

17 of the Act at the faculty level (FOK), or in case of university study programs or for study programs from several TUKE faculties in the same field of study at the university level (UOK). The maximum number of FOK members is 15, for UOK the maximum number is 21, the minimum number of members is 5, while kinship relations between committee members are inadmissible. FOK members are appointed by the Dean, in case of UOK by the Rector, usually selected from persons who have the main responsibility for individual study programs assigned to the given field of study, upon approval by the VR or UR of the faculty or TUKE VR. It is recommended that the members of OK are also representatives of external institutions (at least a PhD. or ArtD. Degree is required, or its alternative in accordance with § 110, section 3 of the Act) and other faculties or universities. If a higher education institution conducts doctoral study in cooperation with an external educational institution, the external educational institution has its adequate representation in the relevant OK.

- (3) FOK and UOK elect their Chair person from among its members (§ 54, section 17 of the Act). Appointment decrees are issued to the selected members of committees by Deans in case of FOK and in case of UOK by Rector. In case of joint study programs of several universities, appointment decrees to members of committees are issued at the university level by the Rectors of the participating faculties of universities on the basis of an agreement concluded pursuant to § 54a of the Act.
- (4) The activities of UOK are governed by the Rules of Procedure approved by the Rector of TUKE, the activities of FOK are governed by the Rules of Procedure approved by the Dean of the relevant faculty. The Rules of Procedure are submitted for approval by the Chair person of OK the wording of which was previously discussed and agreed by the OK.
- (5) Supervisors for a specific doctoral study program accredited at the faculty are appointed by the Dean or Rector in case of study programs accredited at the university level. Supervisors of dissertations may be professors, associate professors or researchers with scientific qualification level I or IIa. Supervisors are approved by the VR or the UR of the relevant faculty or university for the given field of study to which the doctoral study program is assigned.
- (6) An employee of an external educational institution or another university with the function or qualification referred to in section 5 hereof may also be appointed a supervisor for a given accredited study program. In case of supervisors from an external educational institution, this institution must contractually cooperate in providing the study program.
- (7) The supervisor may work as a supervisor until dismissal by the TUKE VR or faculty VR/UR, or by a decision of an external educational institution, by resigning at their own request, by terminating the employment contract with the employer where they are a supervisor, or by deprivation of the right to conduct doctoral studies in the relevant field of study. The supervisor is obliged to list the topic of the dissertation thesis at least once every 3 years according to the prescribed model with the data required by the relevant OK. This topic will be offered to applicants upon its approval by the OK.
- (8) In justified cases, for a specific topic or individual study plan, a consultant from among university teaching staff, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV), or a significant specialist from practice holding minimum a PhD. or ArtD. degree (or their older equivalents of CSc. or Dr.), can be appointed a supervisor by the Dean of the relevant faculty or Rector, after approval by FOK or UOK.

Article 3

Status, rights, and obligations of a doctoral student

- (1) A doctoral student is a TUKE student in an accredited doctoral study program, which is a study program of the third level of higher education (hereinafter referred to as the "doctoral student").
- (2) Doctoral study consists of a study part (lectures, seminars, individual study) and a scientific or artistic part in artistic study programs. The individual study plan of a doctoral student is compiled by a supervisor together with a doctoral student and submitted to the OK for approval.
- (3) Doctoral students are subject to legislation on occupational safety and fire protection.

- (4) The presence or absence of doctoral student's attendance at the workplace depends on the specific study and work responsibilities defined by the study plan, as well as on the agreement with the supervisor and the head of the department to which the doctoral student is assigned. The doctoral student is obliged to register their presence at the workplace. The period during which the doctoral student is obliged to stay at the workplace is determined by the faculty.
- (5) In accordance with § 54, section 11 of the Act, part of the doctoral student's individual study plan in daily form is the performance of pedagogical activities or other professional activities related to pedagogical activities up to a maximum of 4 hours per week on average per the academic year in which the teaching process takes place.
- (6) The main organizational document of the doctoral student's work is their individual study plan and the resulting lectures, seminars and other tasks assigned by the supervisor.
- (7) In case of granting Dean's leave to faculty students or Rector's leave in case of students studying at the TUKE level, the granted leave also applies to daily doctoral students.
- (8) TUKE or faculty, or an external educational institution provides a scholarship to a student in a daily doctoral study program. A daily doctoral student with a permanent residence in a EU member state (§ 2, section 2 of the Act) is entitled to a scholarship during the standard length of the study program to which they were admitted, unless they have already obtained a third-level university degree:
 - a) until passing the dissertation examination in the amount of at least 6th class salary and 1st grade salary in accordance with Act No. 553/2003 Coll. on Remuneration for Work Performed in Public Interest and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended,
 - b) after passing the dissertation examination in the amount of at least 7th class salary and 1st salary grade in accordance with Act No. 553/2003 Coll. on Remuneration for Work Performed in Public Interest and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended.
- (9) A doctoral student does not get a scholarship during the study interruption period, and if the study exceeds the standard length of study.
- (10) Under conditions stipulated by the TUKE Rules of Study, doctoral students have the right to change their study program within the same field of study (§ 70, section 1, item l) of the Act), especially if this creates more favorable conditions for the fulfillment of the doctoral student's individual study plan.
- (11) A Dean or the Rector may, in justified cases, interrupt the study based on the proposal of the supervisor. The scholarship is not provided during the study interruption period.
- (12) If a foreign doctoral student is studying on a daily basis in the state language (during the standard length of study), the study is free of charge. If the study is in a language other than the state language, the doctoral student pays tuition fees for each academic year.
- (13) The study according to the study program must not exceed its standard length by more than 2 years (§ 65, section 2 of the Act). The doctoral study needs to be completed by the defence of the dissertation thesis by August 31 of the respective year.
- (14) The study in the doctoral study program is duly completed by the defence of the dissertation thesis, which is a state examination in accordance with Article 1, section 5 hereof.

Article 4

Admission procedure

- (1) The main requirement for admission to a doctoral study program is successful completion of a Master' program.
- (2) Before starting the admission procedure, TUKE or a faculty, if the study program is carried out at the faculty, issues a list of dissertation thesis topics to be chosen from when applying for the doctoral study. A supervisor is assigned to each of these topics. Candidates seeking to undertake the doctoral study choose one of these topics. The deadline and conditions of the admission procedure are posted by TUKE on the bulletin board, the TUKE or faculty website no later than two months before the last day for submission of application forms.

- (3) TUKE or a faculty, if the study program is carried out at the faculty, also includes the topics of dissertation theses proposed by supervisors together with an external educational; each topic is provided with the name of an external educational institution. External educational institutions may publish the topics independently.
- (4) If an applicant for doctoral study chooses a dissertation thesis topic proposed by an external educational institution, the admission of this applicant to the doctoral study must also be approved by the external educational institution. The admission examination (§ 54, section 7 of the Act) is held in front of the examination committee, which consists of the members of TUKE and representatives of the external educational institution appointed by the director of the external institution. For the study programs provided at a faculty, the TUKE members are appointed by the Dean, for other study programs by the Rector. The admission examination may also be held at the premises of the external educational institution with the participation of TUKE representatives, based on an agreement of TUKE or the faculty with the external educational institution.
- (5) The admission procedure for an applicant for the study begins with the submission of their written application for study on the form prescribed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Ministry") to TUKE or the faculty that conducts the respective study program. The application form must be submitted by the deadline as set by TUKE or the faculty.
- (6) The Dean decides on admission to a study program conducted by the Faculty. The Dean's decision on non-admission to study may be changed by the Rector in accordance with section 8 of this Article. The decision on admission to a study program conducted by TUKE is issued by the Rector. The Rector's decision on non-admission to study may be changed by the TUKE Academic Senate (hereinafter referred to as "AS") in accordance with section 8 of this Article.
- (7) The decision on the results of the admission procedure must be made in writing within 30 days of the verification of fulfilment of the requirements for admission to the study. It must include a statement, reasoning and information on the possibility to submit a request to review the decision. It must be delivered to the applicant by registered mail in person.
- (8) A candidate who has been denied admission to the study can submit a request for review of the decision. The request shall be submitted to the authorized body that has issued the decision within eight days of the date of its receipt. If the decision is issued by the Dean, he/she reviews the applicant's request and approves it if the non-admission decision was issued in violation of the Act, internal regulation of TUKE or the faculty, or with other conditions required under § 57, section 1 of the Act. Otherwise the request for review is forwarded to the Rector. The Rector alters the decision if it was issued in violation of the Act, internal regulation of TUKE or the faculty, or with other conditions required under § 57, section 1 of the Act. If the non-admission decision was issued by the Rector, he or she may review the request and change the decision if he or she finds that it was issued in violation of the Act, internal regulation of TUKE or the faculty, or with other conditions required under § 57, section 1 of the Act. Otherwise the request is forwarded to the AS TUKE. The AS reviews the request and may change the decision if it was issued in violation of the Act, internal regulation of TUKE or the faculty, or with other conditions required under § 57, section 1 of the Act. A written reply to the request must be sent within 30 days of the receipt of the request for review of the decision of non-admission to the university or faculty.

Article 5

The course and evaluation of study

- (1) Enrolment dates for the study are determined by the Rector or Dean and are listed in the academic year schedule. The office for doctoral study confirms the enrolment for the study in the study report (if used at the respective faculty) and records it in the TUKE Students' Registry.
- (2) If, for serious reasons, a student is unable to attend the enrolment for the subsequent period of study (academic year, termination of the study interruption period) and does not use the institute of power of attorney or electronic form of enrolment, they must send their apology in writing within 3 working days and request an alternative date for enrolment. The request for alternative

day of enrolment must be delivered within 10 working days from the day of the original enrolment date or termination of the approved study interruption period. Unexcused absence is considered as disinterest in the study and the last day of the period for an alternative date for enrolment is considered the day on which the student quits the study.

- (3) A student must submit a receipt of payment of the annual tuition fee if the payment of tuition fees is stipulated by the Act (§ 92, sections 5 to 8), under the provisions of the contract, or when studying in a study program in an external form. The school and other study- related fees are governed by the TUKE regulation.
- (4) A student becomes the student of an accredited third-level degree (doctoral) study program on the date of the enrolment in accordance with § 6, section 3 of the TUKE Statute.
- (5) The individual study plan of the doctoral student is compiled by the supervisor and the doctoral student and approved by FOK or UOK, signed by the Chair person of FOK or UOK. The study plan must be submitted for approval within 1 month from the beginning of the study.
- (6) Doctoral student's performance is evaluated according to their dissertation examination as well as on an annual basis (evaluation of the level of the scientific part of the study, checking the status of assignments according to the individual study plan). Evaluation is done by the supervisor together with the doctoral student. The supervisor prepares and submits annual performance evaluation of the fulfilment of the doctoral student's individual study plan to the Dean or the Rector by 31 August of the calendar year at the latest. The supervisor also submits a proposal for continuation of the study, extension of the study period or exclusion from the study. Annual evaluation of doctoral students is essential for evaluation of doctoral studies at TUKE or faculty in accordance with Article 2, section 1 hereof.
- (7) The study of the doctoral student is evaluated in accordance with the principles of the credit system pursuant to the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic No. 614/2002 Coll. on the Credit System of Study, as amended, § 54, section 2 of the Act and the principles defined in the following sections hereof.
- (8) For every subject completed over the period of study, a doctoral student is generally awarded 20 credits. For successful passing of the dissertation examination, a doctoral student is awarded 30 credits (or as stated in the accreditation file of a specific study program).
- (9) The total number of credits required to be obtained over the period of daily doctoral study, on condition that this study lasts three academic years, is 180. Out of this number, a minimum of 90 and a maximum of 130 credits can be obtained in the study part, while a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 90 in the scientific part of the study.
- (10) The total number of credits required to be obtained over the period of daily doctoral study, on condition that this study lasts four academic years, is 240. Out of this number, a minimum of 120 and a maximum of 170 credits can be obtained in the study part, a minimum of 70 and a maximum of 120 credits in the scientific part of the study.
- (11) The total number of credits required to be obtained over the period of external doctoral study, on condition that this study lasts four academic years, is 180. Out of this number, a minimum of 90 and a maximum of 130 credits can be obtained in the study part, a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 90 credits in the scientific part of the study.
- (12) The total number of credits required to be obtained over the period of external doctoral study, on condition that this study lasts five academic years, is 240. Out of this number, a minimum of 120 and a maximum of 170 credits can be obtained in the study part, a minimum of 70 and a maximum of 120 credits in the scientific part of the study. The credit values of publishing and artistic activities of doctoral students are listed in the Annex to these Principles (Table 1 and Table 2).
- (13) Taking part of the study at another university within the academic mobility (§ 58a of the Act) is regulated in § 11, sections 9 to 12 of the TUKE Study Rules.
- (14) A doctoral student studying in a daily study program must apply for a final dissertation examination:
 - a) within 18 months from the beginning of the study, if the study lasts three academic years,
 - b) within 24 months from the beginning of the study, if the study lasts four academic years.A doctoral student in an external form of study program must apply for a final dissertation examination:

- a) within 24 months from the beginning of study, if the study lasts four academic years,
- b) within 30 months from the beginning of the study, if the study lasts five academic years.

In justified cases, exceptions may be granted by the Dean or the Rector.

- (15) A doctoral student applies for the dissertation examination by submitting a request and a written paper for the dissertation examination, while it is recommended to be processed in the stylesheet for final theses at TUKE in the length specified by the faculty. The written paper for the dissertation examination is focused on the theoretical basis of the problems that will be dealt with in the future dissertation thesis, the current state of the problem being investigated and the analysis of the methodical approach to the solution. It must contain clearly defined principles and objectives of the dissertation thesis. The condition for granting consent to perform the dissertation examination is the completion of the study part in the prescribed composition of subjects. The dissertation examination is a state examination that consists of the defence of the written paper for the dissertation examination and an examination in three subjects as specified in the individual study plan and is evaluated comprehensively as a whole.
- (16) The written paper for the dissertation examination is reviewed by one opponent, who is an independent reviewer from outside the faculty where the doctoral student and his supervisor work and has no common papers or articles with the doctoral student. In case of external doctoral students, the opponent cannot be from the doctoral student's workplace, where he or she is employed. The opponent must be an expert holding the minimum degree PhD. or ArtD. (or their older equivalents of CSc., or Dr.).
- (17) The dissertation examination is held in front of the examination committee. The course of the dissertation examination and the announcement of the results are public. Members of the examination committee vote on the result of the dissertation examination in a non-public session of the examination committee.
- (18) The right to examine and be members of the examination committee can only be granted to university teachers holding posts of professors and associate professors (§ 75, section 1 of the Act), experts working in the SAV and other experts from outside the faculty holding the minimum academic degree Ph.D. or Art.D. (or their older equivalents of CsC., or Dr.) approved by the VR or UR of the faculty, in case of university doctoral study programs upon approval by VR TUKE.
- (19) Members of the dissertation examination committee for faculty study programs are appointed by the Dean, for university study programs by the Rector. Examination committees usually also include outstanding experts in the respective field of study from other higher education institutions, legal entities engaged in the research and development or professionals from practice. At least two members of the state examination committee are university teachers holding posts of professors or associate professors. If a doctoral student chooses a topic provided by an external educational institution, he / she takes the dissertation examination and the defence of the dissertation in front of the committee, which also includes members represented by an external educational institution on a parity basis.
- (20) The dissertation examination committee consists of a minimum 5 members. At least one member of the committee must not be a TUKE employee, at least one member of the committee must be a university professor or associate professor in the respective or related field of study for a fixed weekly working time. The opponent and the supervisor are also members of the committee.
- (21) Two thirds of the panel members need to be in attendance for the committee to be quorate. The following members must be present: the opponent (in case of not providing an explicitly positive assessment), a member of the committee outside TUKE and the supervisor.
- (22) Both parts of the dissertation examination are evaluated by the committee as "passed" or "failed". The committee decides on the results of the examination by voting. The "passed" decision is valid if more than half (majority) of those present agree on the decision. The supervisor has no voting rights. A report on the examination is written down and includes the opponent's report. The report is signed by the Chair person and members of the committee present at the examination. The doctoral student receives a written certificate of passing the dissertation examination issued by the supervising body.

- (23) If a doctoral student fails the examination or part of it, they may retake the examination one more time. The new date of the examination is determined by the committee so that the second examination is held after 1 month at the earliest and three months at the latest after the failed examination. The "failed" result of this retaken examination is the reason for immediate exclusion of the student from the study (§ 66, section 1, item c) of the Act).
- (24) A doctoral student must present the results of their scientific part of the study in the form of original scientific work in scientific journals, presentations or posters at conferences, symposia, seminars, exhibitions, and workshops both at home and abroad. The credit values assigned to these activities can be found in the Annex hereof.

Article 6

Interruption of study

- (1) In accordance with § 64 of the Act, the study of the of the third-level study program of higher education may be interrupted at the request of the student. Interruption of the study is permitted by the Dean if it is a study program carried out at the faculty. In case of a study program carried out at a university, the interruption of studies is permitted by the Rector. Interruption of studies for a doctoral student who has applied for a dissertation topic written by an external educational institution is permitted by the Dean or the Rector after a positive statement from the director of the external educational institution. In justified cases, the Dean or the Rector may interrupt the student's doctoral study on the basis of a proposal by the supervisor. During the interruption of study, the student has nor the rights neither the obligations of a TUKE student. If the reasons for the interruption of studies cease to exist earlier, the student may request the termination of the interruption even before the expiry of the interruption period. After the expiration of the period of study interruption, the student is obliged to re-enroll in the relevant department for doctoral studies.
- (2) The reasons for interruption of doctoral study include maternal leave, health or other serious personal reasons of a doctoral student, or study abroad, if it is not part of the doctoral study program or their individual study plan. In the external study program, the reason for the interruption of study may also be a long-term business trip abroad.
- (3) The overall period of all interruptions of doctoral study must not exceed 24 months for the entire period of study.

Article 7

Defence of dissertation - completion of study

- (1) The doctoral study is completed by the defence of the final dissertation thesis.
- (2) The student can apply for the defence of the dissertation thesis upon fulfilment of the following conditions:
- Successful completion of the dissertation examination,
 - Obtaining a minimum of 150 credits in accordance with Article 1, section 3 hereof (daily three-year study),
 - Obtaining a minimum of 210 credits in accordance with Article 1, section 3 hereof (daily four-year study),
 - Obtaining a minimum of 150 credits in accordance with Article 1, section 3 hereof (external four-year study),
 - Obtaining a minimum of 210 credits in accordance with Article 1, section 3 hereof (external five-year study),
 - Publishing (including acceptance for publication) of the article / articles in one of the categories of minimum criteria listed in the Annex hereof (Table No. 1), while the content of the article / articles corresponds to the topic of the doctoral student's dissertation thesis. OK may submit for approval additional requirements/criteria imposed on doctoral students in the relevant study programs to the VR/UR of the faculty or VR TUKE, depending on the competence of the OK. In case of artistic study fields, the minimum number of outputs of artistic activity, or the minimum

combination of outputs of artistic activity and publishing activity is set by FOK/UOK and approved by the VR/UR of the faculty or VR TUKE. This specification is issued in the form of an instruction from the Dean of the faculty providing the relevant study program.

A doctoral student must submit a request for the dissertation defence 6 months before completion of the above-standard length of study at the latest.

- (3) The request for the dissertation defence is submitted by the doctoral student to the Dean of the respective faculty or the Rector in case of university programs with the following documents attached:
 - a) a CV,
 - b) a copy of the individual study plan,
 - c) a copy of the certificate of passing the dissertation examination,
 - d) a list of published papers arranged in accordance with the Decree No. 456/2012 Coll. on the Central Registry of Publishing Activities and the Central Registry of Artistic Activities, as amended, in the form of a statement from EPC TUKE,
 - e) copies of the most significant publications as well as catalogues of the most important art exhibitions in case of artistic study programs,
 - f) a dissertation thesis in the state language or in a world language in four printed copies and in electronic form in the number of copies corresponding to the number of members of the committee, but no fewer than 10 copies; the dissertation thesis is to be submitted as a separate work and it is recommended to be processed in the stylesheet for final theses at TUKE,
 - g) an assessment report of the supervisor.
- (4) The Dean of the faculty or the Rector forwards the request pursuant to section 3 of this Article to the Chair person of FOK or UOK for assessment. After reviewing the request, the Chair person of FOK or UOK with the approval of FOK or UOK submits to the Dean or the Rector a proposal for the appointment of the dissertation defense commission and a proposal for the opponents.
- (5) The committee for the defence of dissertations consists of a minimum 7 members including at least two opponents. Only university teachers working as professors and associate professors have the right to examine students at the state examination, together with other experts approved by the relevant VR. An opponent cannot be a person who is related to doctoral student or to his/her supervisor. The supervisor is another member of the committee without the right to vote. The Chair person of the committee, members of the committee and the opponents are appointed by the Dean, in case of a university study program by the Rector on the basis of the proposal of FOK or UOK in accordance with the rules for appointing a committee for state examinations (§ 63, section 3 and 4 of the Act). The Chair person of the committee must be a member of the FOK or UOK, at least one of the members of the committee and one of the opponents must not be a TUKE employee. At least one of the opponents and at least two other members of the committee who are not opponents must be university professors in the respective or related field of study for a fixed weekly working time. If the opponent is an employee of the university, they must hold at least an Associate Professor degree. In case of an expert outside the university, this person must hold a minimum PhD or ArtD. degree (or their older equivalents of CSc. or Dr.) and must be approved as an expert by the relevant VR. It is recommended that one member of the committee be from abroad.
- (6) The committee has a quorum in the presence of two thirds of all members (apart from the supervisor), while at least one opponent and one member of the committee, who is not a TUKE employee, must be present. The opponent who has submitted a negative assessment report must also be present.
- (7) The appointed opponent writes an assessment report within 30 days from the receipt of the dissertation thesis and sends it to the central registry of dissertations in an electronic form. The printed version of this report is also to be delivered to the supervisor's department. If the assessment report is not submitted by the opponent within the time limit specified herein or after an additional request to do so within 14 days, the Dean or the Rector appoints a new opponent in accordance with sections 4 and 5 of this Article. The assessment report contains an analysis of the

advantages and possible shortcomings of the dissertation thesis; it is brief and does not repeat the contents of the dissertation thesis.

The opponent's comments in the report include:

- a) timeliness of the dissertation thesis topic,
- b) methods of writing the dissertation thesis,
- c) results of the dissertation and new knowledge,
- d) contribution to further development of science and technology (art),
- e) issues addressed,
- f) meeting the objectives of the dissertation thesis.

At the end of the assessment report, the opponent comments on the dissertation, gives a general assessment of the level of the dissertation thesis and explicitly states the proposal either for awarding or not awarding a Ph.D. or Art.D academic degree.

- (8) Before the defence of the dissertation thesis, the TUKE University Library sends the dissertation thesis in an electronic format to the central registry of final, rigorous and habilitation works for the evaluation of originality of the final thesis. The result of the originality test is part of the state examination record. After the successful defence, the dissertation thesis is published in the central registry of dissertations within the time period stipulated in § 63, section 9 of the Act. In order to be admitted to the defence procedure, except cases pursuant to § 63, section 11 of the Act, the student is required to give a written consent with publication and making the dissertation available to public during the period of its storage in accordance with § 63, section 7 of the Act (70 years from the date of registration) without claiming a reward.
- (9) A detailed procedure of assigning, submitting, evaluating originality and defence of final theses and their subsequent publishing is governed by a special internal TUKE regulation (OS/TUKE/P1/02 Electronic final theses).
- (10) After submitting all the assessment reports and the results of the dissertation thesis originality test, the Chair person of the committee determines the date of the dissertation thesis defence that is to take place within 30 days. TUKE or the respective faculty notifies the following people of the date, time and place of the defence:
 - a) a doctoral student and his or her supervisor,
 - b) members of the committee,
 - c) opponents.
- (11) TUKE or the faculty announces the time and date of the defence of the dissertation thesis on the official noticeboard, on the website of the faculty or university and sends copies or electronic versions of opponents' assessment reports and the dissertation thesis in an electronic format to the members of the committee; copies of the opponents' reports are to be sent to the doctoral student and the supervisor.
- (12) The dissertation thesis defence is usually held at the workplace where the doctoral student has submitted his or her request for defence. In justified cases, on the proposal of FOK or UOK, the defence may also be held in an external institution participating in the doctoral study.
- (13) Dissertation defence is a state examination and is public. In exceptional cases, the Chair person can allow the defence to be held in a non-public session. The defence of the dissertation is held in the form of a scientific discussion of the results presented in the dissertation thesis between the doctoral student, opponents, members of the committee and other participants of the defence. The defence of the dissertation is focused on the authenticity and validity of the results and conclusions of the dissertation thesis.
- (14) The defence of the dissertation thesis is usually led by the Chair person of the committee, in exceptional cases the defence can be led (upon approval by the FOK or UOK and the Dean or the Rector) by an authorized committee member (except the opponent and the supervisor).
- (15) The defence of the dissertation is held in accordance with the following procedures:
 - a) the Chair person begins the defence by stating the quorum of the committee, introduces the doctoral student, briefly presents his or her curriculum vitae, the topic of the dissertation thesis

- and the most significant scientific and artistic works and responses to them, informs the committee about the results of the dissertation originality test,
- b) the doctoral student presents the important parts of the dissertation thesis,
 - c) the opponents read the essential parts of the opponents' assessment reports, the report of the opponent who is absent is read in full,
 - d) the doctoral student gives their opinion on the opponents' assessment reports (reactions to objections, questions, attitudes),
 - (e) the Chair person informs all the present about any other assessment reports and opinions,
 - (f) the Chair person opens a general discussion in which members of the committee and all present take part,
 - g) the doctoral student answers the questions and responds to comments,
 - h) the Chair person terminates the public part of the defence.
- (16) The committee decides on the result of the defence in a closed session by simple majority secret ballot voting. The vote is by ballot papers with the text "I agree – disagree with awarding the academic degree". Voters cross out the inappropriate phrase. Any other alteration in the ballot paper is invalid. The award of an academic degree requires the consent of an absolute majority of the present members of the committee. Otherwise, the defence has been unsuccessful.
 - (17) The result of the voting is recorded in the minutes signed by the Chair person and all members of the committee.
 - (18) The result of the voting is announced by the Chair person in a public session.
 - (19) The minutes together with other defense-related requisites, and a proposal for awarding the academic degree Ph.D. or Art.D. are submitted by the Chair person of the committee to the Dean or the Rector within 15 days after the defence.
 - (20) If the student fails the defence of the dissertation thesis, the Dean of the faculty (or the Rector of TUKE in case of the university study program), based on the documents from the committee, issues his/her decision that is delivered to the doctoral student by registered mail within 30 days from the date of failed defence of the dissertation thesis.
 - (21) The conditions for retaking the defence of the dissertation thesis are determined by the respective committee in the record of state exams.
 - (22) If a doctoral student fails to defend their dissertation thesis, they continue above-standard length of study and can defend the dissertation one more time, but no sooner than 6 months and no later than 2 years after the failed defence.
 - (23) The student may submit a request to retake the defence of the dissertation thesis 6 months at the earliest and 17 months at the latest from the date of the receipt of the decision.
 - (24) If a student fails the retaken defence, the doctoral study is terminated with the result: failed.

Article 8

Interim and final provisions

- (1) The conditions for the proper completion of studies for students admitted to study accredited study programs under the Higher Education Act before approving the wording of these Principles, in particular the credit values of publishing and artistic activities, remain in accordance with the Principles effective until 15 March 2021.
- (2) Decision-making related to the issues of doctoral study at TUKE, which are not explicitly governed hereof, is within the competence of the Rector or the Dean.
- (3) Sample forms for listing the topic of the dissertation thesis, individual study plan, annual evaluation of the doctoral student, various types of applications, minutes and certificates are in the annexes of OS / TUKE / H1 / 01 Education.
- (4) The Principles of Organization, Evaluation and Completion of Doctoral Study and the Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University of Košice of 3 March 2008, as amended, which were last approved by AS TUKE on 16.05.2016, Resolution No. 15/2016 and took effect on 1 September 2016, are repealed.

- (5) These Principles of Organization, Evaluation, and Completion of Doctoral Study and the Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University of Košice, as amended, come into force and effect after their approval by AS TUKE.
- (6) The Annex to these Principles of Organization, Evaluation, and Completion of Doctoral Study and the Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University of Košice, which establish the credit values of publishing and artistic activities, applies to doctoral students admitted to study from the academic year 2021/2022.
- (7) These Principles of Organization, Evaluation, and Completion of Doctoral Study and the Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University of Košice were approved by AS TUKE on 15 March 2021, Resolution No. 05/2021 and take effect from 16 March 2021.

Dr. h. c. prof. h. c. prof. Ing. Stanislav Kmeť, DrSc.
Rector of TUKE

prof. Ing. Roman Cimbala, PhD.
Chair person of AS TUKE

Annex to Principles of Organization, Evaluation, and Completion of Doctoral Study and the Principles of Establishing Subject Committees of Doctoral Study at the Technical University of Košice

Table 1: MINIMUM CRITERIA

Minimum criteria
1 article published in a journal indexed in the Web of Science with at least the Q2 quartile ranking where the doctoral student is the first author or a corresponding author with at least a 30% share in article. (or)
2 articles published in a journal indexed in the Web of Science with at least the Q3 quartile ranking where the doctoral student is a co-author with at least a 20% share in each of these two articles.

Table 2: CREDIT VALUES OF DOCTORAL PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

Publication category	Number of credits
Scientific article in a journal indexed in the Web of Science, Q1 quartile ranking	50
Scientific article in a journal indexed in the Web of Science with Q2 or Q3 quartile ranking, or in SCOPUS with Q1 or Q2 quartile ranking	25
Scientific article in a journal indexed in the Web of Science with Q4 quartile ranking, or in SCOPUS with Q3 or Q4 quartile ranking	20
Article in a peer-reviewed indexed collection of scientific papers, or an article in proceedings of an international conference indexed in the Web of Science or SCOPUS database; a scientific article in an indexed journal in the Web of Science or SCOPUS without the quartile ranking	15
Scientific article in a foreign journal in a world language	15
Scientific article in a domestic journal, regardless of language	10
Scientific article in a peer-reviewed proceedings of an international conference in a world language	10
Scientific article in a peer-reviewed proceedings of a domestic conference, regardless of language	8
Copyright certificates, patents, discoveries, utility models, designs	30

Note: The determination of quartiles according to Web of Science is based on JCR and the best quartile is taken into consideration, if the journal is categorized into more than one category in the JCR, at the time of publishing the article or its admission to the press. SCOPUS publications evaluation is based on SJR.

Table 3: CREDIT VALUES OF DOCTORAL ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

Artwork category	Number of credits
Works of art, performances presented by one author or a group of authors in the categories ZZZ, ZYZ	50
Works of art, performances presented by one author or a group of authors in the categories ZZY, ZYY, ZZX, ZYX, ZXZ, YZZ, ZVZ, YYZ	30
Works of art, performances presented by one author or a group of authors in the categories ZXY, ZYI, ZVY, YYY	15
Works of art, performances presented by one author or a group of authors in the categories ZZV, ZYV, ZXX, YZX, ZVX, YYX	10
Works of art, performances presented by one author or a group of authors in the categories YXZ, XZZ, YVZ, XYZ	8