

POSTGRADUATE UNIVERSITY (DOCTORAL) STUDY PROGRAMME

BUSINESS ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Libertas International University

Trg J.F. Kennedy 6b
10 000 Zagreb, Hrvatska



+385 1 5633113

sarapovic@libertas.hr

Foreword

Dear candidates,

The postgraduate study programme of Business Economics and Sustainable Development is founded on the Salzburg principles established in 2005 within the Bologna process, according to which doctoral study programmes acquire a central position in the European research space and the European higher education. Besides, this study programme was initiated upon consultations with the representatives of relevant stakeholders, as well as scientists and researchers dealing with sustainable development, value economics and green growth. The fundamental goal of the doctoral study programme is to provide competitive and applicable knowledge and research skills focused on business economics and sustainable development, encompassing global challenges related to the environment and climate change, natural resource management and implications for effective sustainable business initiatives, management, human rights, and the general well-being. Likewise, the programme aims to cultivate experts who will actively contribute to designing and implementing new economic strategies and policies ensuring sustainable development in the 21st century within the increasing risks related to climate change. Economic growth is essential, but not sufficient for development. Sustainable development features three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, and the question of preserving and sustainably using the environment as the development lever is gradually being integrated into development policies. Such a development cannot be achieved solely by technological solutions, political regulations, or financial instruments. It is necessary to change the way of thinking, as well as the practice of doing. This kind of change demands quality sustainable development education and learning at all levels and social contexts, as well as raising awareness on green growth, collaborative relationships with the community and the eco system, corporate sustainability, sharing economy and creating values and preserving health.

Based on its integrated and all-encompassing approach to doctoral education, this postgraduate doctoral study programme provides education and qualification for experts and scientists who are in high demand on the market, in order to generate internationally acclaimed and socially responsible researchers who will meet the needs of scientific development and society as a whole.

Rector Ivo Andrijanić, Ph.D., Prof.



CONTENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME

2. ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

3. STUDY PROGRAMME APPLICATION AND ENROLMENT

4. STUDY PROGRAMME DURATION AND ACADEMIC TITLE

5. STUDY PROGRAMME OBLIGATIONS

6. STUDY PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

7. LEARNING OUTCOMES

8. STUDY PROGRAMME TEACHERS

9. CAREER DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME

The study programme is intended for highly motivated and determined individuals who:

01

have a strong desire to acquire new knowledge, enjoy research and relate economic, social, and environmental dimensions of research results,

02

exhibit an elevated level of work discipline and responsibility toward self and others,

03

show ability to integrate new knowledge and develop innovative ideas in relating business economics and sustainable development,

04

possess developed communication skills and are willing to cooperate in learning, research and dissemination of new knowledge and skills.

2. ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

The postgraduate doctoral study programme may be enrolled by candidates who have completed one of the following study programmes:

- undergraduate and graduate university study programme, the completion of which awards 300 ECTS points and the title of Master of Economics or
- integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme, the completion of which awards 300 ECTS points and the title of Master of Economics or
- undergraduate and graduate study programme, the completion of which awards 300 ECTS points and an academic title in the areas of social sciences, humanities, or other sciences or
- integrated undergraduate and graduate study programme, the completion of which awards 300 ECTS points and an academic title in the areas of social sciences, humanities, or other sciences or
- undergraduate university study programme, the completion of which awards the professional title of economist
- undergraduate university study programme, the completion of which awards a professional title in the area of social sciences, humanities, or other sciences.

The applicants are required to know the English language.

3. STUDY PROGRAMME APPLICATION AND ENROLMENT

In order to apply, candidates need to fill a form and enclose the following:

- degree certificate (certified copy),
- grade transcript related to all study levels,
- recommendations (two, if the grade point average at the study programmes is lower than 3.5),
- resume,
- company decision on payment (if tuition fee is paid by a legal person),
- motivational letter in which the candidate states their motives to enrol in the study programme, their area of scientific interest, brief description of the planned area of research related to their doctoral thesis, as well as the results they wish to achieve

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate or graduate university study programmes outside of the Republic of Croatia need to enclose the decision of the Commission for the Academic Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications.

Candidate evaluation and enrolment process:

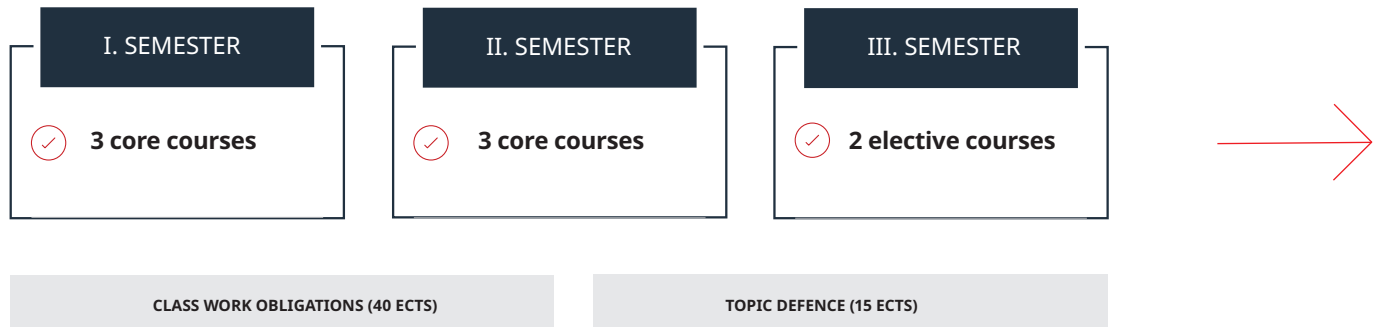
- submission of application documents,
- assessment whether the candidate meets the enrolment requirements,
- interview with the members of the Doctoral Study Programme Committee,
- decision of the Doctoral Study Programme Council,
- entering into agreement with the candidates accepted to the study programme.

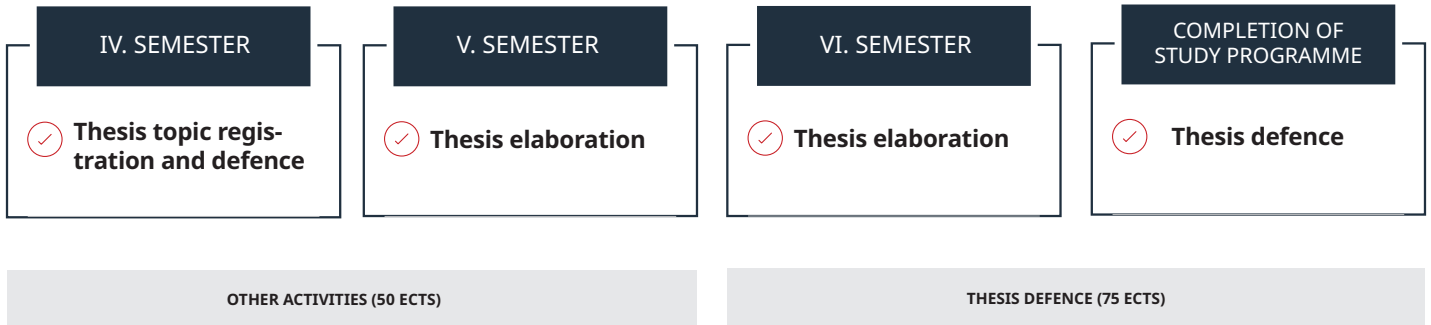
4. STUDY PROGRAMME DURATION AND ACADEMIC TITLE

3 years: teaching and learning process, defence of the thesis topic and other activities

+2 years: research, elaboration, and defence of the doctoral thesis,

After a successful completion of the study programme and devised, submitted, and positively assessed and defended doctoral thesis, the academic title obtained is the Doctor of Science within the scientific area of social sciences, the field of economics, abbreviated as **Ph.D. (D.Sc.)**, written after the name and surname.





Other activities include:

- seminars and practical exercises in undergraduate and graduate courses of the Libertas International University in Zagreb (10 ECTS points) and/or,
- study visits at other domestic or foreign universities and scientific institutions in the duration of at least three months or corresponding studying/scientific-research activities (e.g., international science projects) aimed at internationalising research (20 ECTS points) and/or,
- writing and publishing scientific papers in internationally recognised scientific journals indexed in databases such as WoSCC, Scopus, i.e., in accordance with the Ordinance on Conditions for Appointment into Scientific Grades (one paper acquires 20 ECTS points; a maximum of two papers are recognised) and/or,
- presentation and publication of a scientific paper at an international scientific conference (10 ECTS points; a maximum of two papers are recognised) and/or,
- research workshops (seminars) chosen in agreement with the mentor/co-mentor and closely related to the previously enrolled and passed courses, i.e., to the doctoral thesis research area (5 ECTS points per workshop; a maximum of two workshops are recognised).

Remarks:

- seminars and workshops can only be delivered and completed within a course that is content related to the area of social sciences, the field of economics,
- one research paper (journal, proceedings and similar) cannot be submitted for several categories,
- a doctoral candidate can submit a paper as co-author with their mentor/co-mentor, whereby the total number of authors cannot surpass three (3),
- international scientific conference is a conference indexed in databases related to the category a1 or whose editorial board consists of at least 70 % of distinguished foreign scientists,
- other activities can be combined in agreement with the mentor/co-mentor, provided that the established limits for specific activities are followed,

- a doctoral candidate must obtain at least 50 ECTS points based on other activities,
- the obtained ECTS points from other activities are confirmed by the Doctoral Study Programme Council

Besides the classical method of doctoral thesis elaboration (monograph), the students will be able to devise a doctoral thesis (dissertation) based on the collection of published research papers. The doctoral thesis based on published research papers (so-called Scandinavian model) contains a review-based introductory part, a brief elaboration of the paper with the description of conducted research, conclusion, and list of references. This doctoral thesis model must be submitted with at least four published original scientific papers.

All papers need to be published in international journals in the area of social sciences, field of economics, indexed in databases Current Contents (CC), Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-E) and/or Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), at least two of which need to be published in journals whose impact factor (IF) exceeds the median of the group. The doctoral candidate must be the first author of at least two papers and co-author only alongside their mentor and co-mentor.

The papers submitted need to make up a content-related and logical unity and be directly related to the thesis topic, as well as published after the enrolment in the doctoral study programme.

6. STUDY PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

1 st Year	ECTS
1 st Semester / Core courses	
Scientific research methodology	5
Advanced macroeconomics and financial economics	5
Sustainable development and bioeconomics	5
2 nd Semester / Core courses	
Quantitative approach to business modelling and decision making	5
Economic development and public policies	5
The global market and climate changes	5

2nd semester enrolment conditions: lecture attendance in all 1st semester courses

3rd semester enrolment conditions: lecture attendance in all 2nd semester courses and at least two 1st-semester course exams passed

Appointment of mentor / co-mentor for thesis elaboration (research area corresponding to the doctoral candidate's interests). The doctoral candidate chooses two elective courses in agreement with the mentor.

2 nd Year	ECTS
3 rd Semester / Elective courses and registration of thesis topic	
Sustainable regions and cities	5
Microeconomic topics and marketing trends	5
Energy policy and sustainable development	5
Corporate social responsibility	5
Sustainable development and culture	5
Strategic management and competitiveness	5
Artificial intelligence and data analysis	5

4th semester enrolment conditions: lecture attendance in all 3rd semester courses and all 1st-semester course exams passed and at least 2 course exams of the 2nd semester.

Doctoral thesis topic (synopsis) registration.

2ND Year	ECTS
4th Semester / Thesis topic defence	
Defence of doctoral thesis topic (synopsis) The doctoral candidate participates in other activities (whereby they obtain 50 ECTS points)	15

5th semester enrolment conditions: all first-year course exams passed, successfully defended thesis topic, at least 10 ECTS points obtained from other activities

3RD Year	
5th Semester	
Work with the mentor (research and work on the thesis). Other activities (acquisition of ECTS points).	THESIS ELABORATION
<i>6th semester enrolment conditions: at least 10 ECTS points obtained in other activities; mentor's signature as proof of completed activities related to thesis elaboration</i>	
6th Semester	
Work with the mentor (research and work on the thesis). Other activities (acquisition of ECTS points).	THESIS ELABORATION
<i>From the start of the 6th semester to the end of the doctoral study programme: elaboration of the final version of the doctoral thesis, the mentor's verification of thesis completion for the Committee for Doctoral Thesis Assessment.</i>	

7. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the postgraduate doctoral study programme with the elaboration and public defence of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate will be able to:

- Develop original knowledge and skills integrated into business economics and sustainable development,
- Create and evaluate new qualitative and quantitative indicators in the area of economics and sustainability,
- Integrate economic, social, and public policies with indicators in the area of economics and sustainability,
- Independently and autonomously research and develop theoretical and practical knowledge on financial development and financial economics in relation to sustainable development,
- Independently valorise selected variables, simulate models and analyse obtained results, and make business decisions,
- Develop a quantitative approach and research methods related to the interaction of the global market and climate changes,
- Recommend and develop entrepreneurial organisational models within corporate sustainability, sharing economy, value creation and preservation of the demographic potential,
- Integrate scientific facts and expectations into conducting energy policies and corporate competitiveness,
- Disseminate scientific knowledge and communicate with the scientific community and the social environment pertaining to the area of sustainable development through all three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental.

8. STUDY PROGRAMME TEACHERS

Teachers participating in the teaching and learning activities are:

01

professors from the Libertas International University in Zagreb and the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb,

02

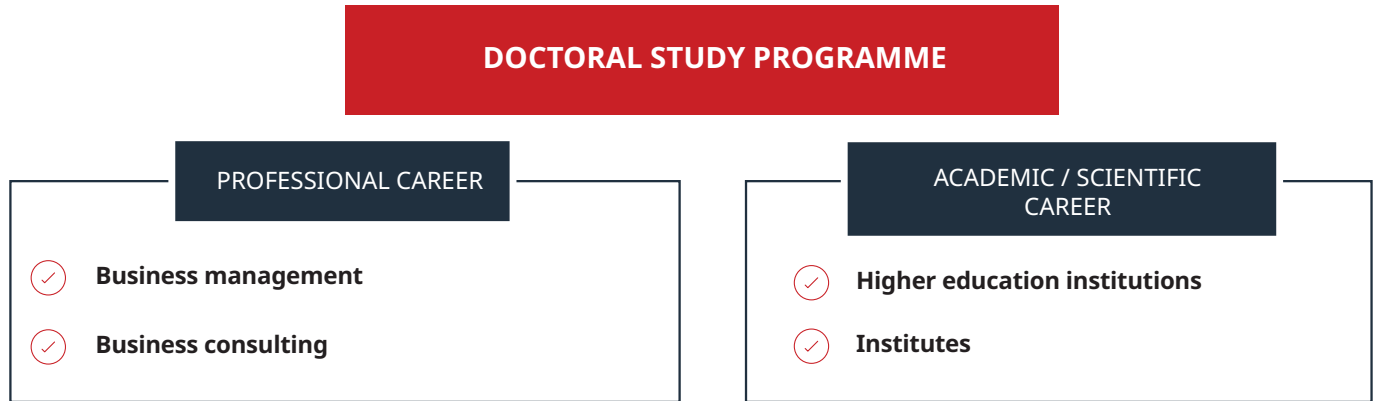
guest lecturers from other faculties in the Republic of Croatia,

03

guest lecturers from foreign universities.

Mentors who cover all areas of business economics and sustainable development are available to candidates. The availability of mentors is coordinated each academic year with the research area, the study programme and candidates' interests.

9. CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Professional career

Relating business practices and scientific knowledge at this doctoral study programme provides candidates with higher levels of competencies in the areas of organisation, management, analysis, or consulting.

Academic / scientific career

A doctorate degree in economic sciences provides career development opportunities in academic, i.e., scientific area at university and research institutes through the acquisition of scientific or teaching-scientific grade appointments.



Any legal and sub-legal changes in the field of science and higher education, as well as amendments to related ordinances and decisions, are appropriately applied to this guide as well through study.



Libertas International University

Trg J.F. Kennedy 6b
10 000 Zagreb, Hrvatska



+385 1 5633113

sarapovic@libertas.hr