

Progress review criteria for awarding ECTS credits in the PhD thesis module (180 ECTS) – Doctoral Studies Council of Natural Sciences

	Component of the PhD thesis module	PhD thesis (180 ECTS credits in total)				Submission requirements	Guidelines for assessment	Observations
		Monograph		Article-based dissertation				
		Minimum required	Maximum credits	Minimum required	Maximum credits			
	TOTAL ECTS credits:	136	180	141	180			
1	An analysis of the scientific literature in the field of PhD thesis and an overview of the literature to be used as the theoretical foundation of the PhD thesis	20	35	20	35	The student submits in written form the list of analysed books, several most closely followed journals and overview of the literature to be used as the theoretical foundation of the PhD thesis together with the supervisor's endorsement and estimation of ECTS credits. To be presented and defended either at the doctoral seminar or at the progress review meeting.	The progress review committee assesses the component and awards ECTS credits on the basis of the supervisor's assessment.	Activities that are not considered as core or individual courses in the doctoral programme.
2	Article in ETIS (Estonian Research Information System) categories 1.1, 1.2 or 3.1 accepted for publication (constituting a part of the dissertation if the dissertation is article-based)	60		90		The student submits the article or a copy of the manuscript.	The text of the article reviewed by the supervisor: up to 20 ECTS credits; the article in 'submitted' status: up to 35 ECTS credits – ECTS credits awarded earlier; 'finally accepted' status + 5 ECTS credits. In total, depending on the article's publishing status, 40 ECTS credits may be awarded cumulatively. The max ECTS can be awarded only if the doctoral student is the main author, in other cases max 32 ECTS.	The amount of ECTS credits awarded for an article is assessed on the basis of the specific requirements of the respective field of study and the supervisor's assessment of the student's contribution. In the case that the doctoral student has several supervisors and not all of them have assessed the article, the doctoral student can present the article with assessment from only one supervisor.
3	Chapter/division of a PhD thesis in the monograph format	40	100	0	0	The student submits the text of the chapter of the monograph.	The text of the chapter/division of the PhD thesis (at least 20 pages) reviewed by the supervisor: up to 20 ECTS credits. Chapter/division presented at the public scientific event: + 10 ECTS credits.	In total, for one chapter of a PhD thesis in the monograph format 30 ECTS credits may be awarded cumulatively.
4	Analytical overview of the PhD thesis	0	0	15	30	The student submits it in written form together with the supervisor's endorsement and an estimation of ECTS credits.	ECTS credits can be portioned out by taking into account the completion of the parts of the analytical overview.	
5	Other research publication (the lowest ETIS category)	0	20	0	20	The student submits a copy of the article.	One published research publication equals up to 5 ECTS credits, depending on the ETIS category of the publication.	In the case of a PhD thesis in the monograph format, the other research publications must be related to the topic of the PhD thesis in a minimum required amount of ECTS credits.
6	Other scientific activities (for example development of software necessary for the undertaking research or an internship at the laboratory abroad)	0	15	0	15	The student submits it in written form with the supervisor's endorsement and an estimation of ECTS credits.	The progress review committee assesses the component and awards ECTS credits on the basis of the supervisor's assessment.	
7	Conference presentation	6	20	6	20	The student submits a copy of the conference programme and the abstract of the presentation or a copy of the poster presentation.	Oral presentation at an international conference: 3-5 ECTS credits. Poster presentation at an international conference: 2-3 ECTS credits. Presentation or poster presentation at an Estonian conference: 2 ECTS credits.	The conference presentation includes the publication of the abstract (as a rule, the submission of an abstract is required before the presentation can be accepted). The publication of the full text of the presentation as a separate paper is taken into account separately in the category of other research publications.
8	Preliminary examination before final defence	5	5	5	5	Pursuant to Regulations for Doctoral Studies and Defence of PhD Theses.		If the student is required to retake the preliminary examination next year, less than 5 ECTS credits will be awarded.
9	Final defence	5	5	5	5	Pursuant to Regulations for Doctoral Studies and Defence of PhD Theses.		The progress review committee must take into account that the amount of ECTS credits cumulatively awarded to the student may not exceed 175 ECTS credits before the final defence.

* The minimum and maximum values cover the entire period of doctoral studies. The university monitors the student's credits both in terms of credits awarded in a year and credits awarded cumulatively throughout the entire study period. The sum of the minimum values of components is smaller than the total credits to be awarded for the PhD thesis (180 ECTS credits), since one component may be at its minimum value, but the others may be at their maximum value at the same time.