Doctoral Study Programme

Psychology

The Doctoral Study Programme (DSP) consists of three specialisations:

- General psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Social psychology

Doctoral board of the study programme:

Members of the doctoral board

- **Prof. PhDr. Ivo Čermák, CSc.** chair

Internal Members

- **Prof. PhDr. Marek Blatný, CSc.**
- **Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Růžena Lukášová, CSc.**
- **Prof. PhDr. Petr Macek, CSc.**
  (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
- **Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Šárka Portešová, Ph.D.**
- **Prof. PhDr. Vladimír Smékal, CSc.**
- **Assoc. Prof. PhDr. David Šmahel, Ph.D.**
- **Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Urbánek, Ph.D.**
- **Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Martin Vaculík, Ph.D.**
- **Prof. PhDr. Zbyněk Vybíral, Ph.D.**

External Members

- **PhDr. Martina Hřebíčková, Dr.**
  (The Institute of Psycholog., Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
- **Prof. PhDr. Jiří Mareš, CSc.**
  (Charles University - Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové)
- **Prof. PhDr. Imrich Ruisel, DrSc.**
  (Institute of Experimental Psychology, Slovak Academy of Sciences)

Specialisation and characteristics of the field and aims of study:

The doctoral programme is designed for specialists, who endeavour to obtain scientific qualification in one of the above mentioned fields. It is destined for students who graduated in masters study programmes of psychology, with exceptions for graduates in other similar disciplines. The study is based on individual and creative work of doctoral students who elaborate theses of their doctoral dissertations under the supervision of their teachers.

Aims of study

The aim of the study is to educate scientific and conceptual workers in the fields of general, developmental, and social psychology, both in the sphere of basic psychological and interdisciplinary research, as well as in the sphere of applied research. Emphasis is put on the following:
The deepening of theoretical knowledge in the above mentioned psychological disciplines, which will be used mainly in research, counselling, education, human resources fields, marketing, sectors of non-governmental sphere, etc.

The knowledge and skills corresponding to the newest developmental trends in the respected disciplines.

The space for cultivating the capacity for independent scholarly psychological reflection of the varied (ethical, legal, humanitarian, social, and economic) aspects in diverse fields of work with the people.

The capacity for self-reflection of the effectiveness of one’s own expert work.

Profile and activity of the graduates

The graduates of the doctoral study programme in psychology will have the latest theoretical knowledge from a specific psychology field. They will become expert in methodology and research procedures needed for a complex analysis of psychological problems of both individuals and social and organizational groups, and also problematic situations. They will be able to create conceptions, programmes, projects and analyses in these fields. They will be – after acquiring necessary experience - prepared to coordinate research, conceptual and analytical work of experts from various fields.

Admission requirements

- Completed Master’s degree in psychology or related field (in this case, a specialization in expertise in the field of psychology is expected, or research in on the borders of psychology and another discipline).
- Demonstrated knowledge of contemporary theory, methodology, as well as knowledge of the subjects and skills from the selected psychology field (entrance procedure).
- Applicants with non-psychology degrees and students who have graduated in psychology more than 5 years ago can be subjected to re-evaluation of their knowledge from the field of psychology at Master’s level.
- Knowledge of at least one western language as a precondition to study of scientific literature and communication in scholarly field.
- The applicants for the study in the doctoral study programme submit a proposal of their doctoral dissertation.
- The Department of Psychology publishes thematic areas for doctoral research proposals that are based on research activities of the department, of the Institute for Research on Children, Youth and Family, and research areas of Psychological Institute of the Academy of Sciences CR. The applicants can offer their own projects – these, however, should correspond to research goals of respective workplaces.
- The field board recommends the applicants to consult their research proposals with potential supervisors before they hand in the application.

Thematic areas for doctoral study or doctoral students’ research projects:

Main thematic areas

- Changes in self-conception and identity formation.
- Organization of personal experience (identity, self, socially-cognitive context, narrative mode, values).
- Personal sources of resistance to negative effects of stress and strain.
- Coping with life difficulties.
- Structure of personality.
- Temporal and situational stability of personality.
- Whole-life development of personality.
- Personality coherence (integrity, adjustment, maturity, self-actualization).
- Developmental psychology of adults: changes in personality, life career, integration of life experience.
- The stage theory of human development: critical analysis and verification.
- Partial cognitive processes (perception, thinking, development of speech).
- Complex cognition – consciousness.
- Cognition in relation to physiological processes (electro-dermal activity, eye movements, evoked/recalled potentials).
- Inter-generation relationships in the family, mutual perception of children and parents, experience and nature of parenthood and grand-parenthood nowadays.
- Peculiarities and specific aspects of communication of adolescents, use of information technologies in communication and their influence over everyday life.
- The influence of school environment over socialization of personality, the relationship towards school and one’s education, process of preparation to future profession.
- Risk behaviour of youth (health and social risks).
- Specificities and problems of partner cohabitations and parenthood under new societal conditions, including the exploration of alternative models for partnership and children upbringing.
- Specificities and problems of gifted and talented personalities.
- Specificities and problems of children and adolescents with mental handicaps, behaviour disorders and emotional problems.
- Possibilities of prevention and intervention of risk behaviour of adolescents (health and social risks).
- Validation and standardization of new methods for diagnosing the personality and its development.
- The development of psycho-semantic methods.
- Methodological questions related to the validity of knowledge.
- Application of hermeneutical and narrative methodology in research.
- Computer methods in psycho-diagnosing.
- Application of multi-dimensional statistical methods (such as structural modelling, or cluster analysis) on longitudinal data.
- Modelling of the dynamics of selected psychic phenomena.

Accepted doctoral students who have not studied psychology will have to attend and pass courses in psychology on the Masters’ degree level based upon the suggestion of the supervisor and the field board. Students will select and complete these courses during the first year of study.

Full-time students are required to take part in the organizational, pedagogical or research activities of the supervising institution.

The study will be completed by the defence of doctoral dissertation of 120 to 200 pages, focusing on a complex analysis and/or a complex solution of a problem within a chosen field, or on a complex analysis of current solutions. The readiness for publication will be important part of the evaluation of the dissertation.
The state doctoral exam evaluates the skills of interdisciplinary investigation of different problems of the chosen field and the capacity of psychology to react on them in order to assure adequate impact, general ethical principles and the demand of suitable affectivity.

Personal guarantees of the doctoral study programme:

Appointed supervisors:
PhDr. Jan Beran, Ph.D.
Doc. PhDr. Marek Blatný, CSc.
Prof. PhDr. Ivo Čermák, CSc., předseda
PhDr. Martina Hřebíčková, Dr.
Doc. PhDr. Lubomír Kostroň, CSc.
Mgr. Lenka Lacinová, PhD.
Prof. PhDr. Petr Macek, CSc.
Prof. PhDr. Jiří Mareš, CSc.
Doc. PhDr. Michal Miovský, Ph.D.
Doc. PhDr. Ivo Plaňava
PhDr. Ivana Poledňová, CSc.
Doc. PhDr. Evžen Řehulka, CSc.
Prof. PhDr. Vladimír Smékal, CSc.
PhDr. Miroslava Štěpánková, Ph.D.
Doc. PhDr.Tomáš Urbánek, Ph.D.
PhDr. Martin Vaculík, Ph.D.
Doc. PhDr. Zbyněk Vybíral, Ph.D.
Prof. PhDr. Pavel Říčan, CSc.

and other experts appointed ad hoc by the field board of psychology and scientific board of the faculty.

Links and contacts:

- Faculty of Social Studies: [http://www.fss.muni.cz/](http://www.fss.muni.cz/)
- Department of Psychology: [http://psych.fss.muni.cz/](http://psych.fss.muni.cz/)
- Chairman of the field board: Prof. PhDr. Ivo Čermák, CSc., [cermak@psu.cas.cz](mailto:cermak@psu.cas.cz)
- Head of the Department of Psychology: Doc. PhDr. Zbyněk Vybíral, Ph.D., [vybiral@fss.muni.cz](mailto:vybiral@fss.muni.cz)
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