

## Information

### on the legal and regulatory provisions modifying the deadline for the submission of the doctoral dissertation and on the modification of the deadline that can be granted in case of equity<sup>1</sup>

The Government of Hungary introduced an epidemiological preparedness (see Decree 283/2020. (VI. 17.)) which has affected many areas of life in the country, including conducting the doctoral procedures of the new doctoral training introduced in 2016. Further decisions made in connection with that in the legislation influenced the research and publication opportunities of the (former) students and also certain rules regarding the deadlines of the doctoral procedures. This is a summary of how the possibility of fairness provided by legislation and regulations and as well as the regulations related to epidemiological preparedness affect the deadlines for the submission of the dissertation in the new type of doctoral procedures.

#### General rules

(the relevant provisions of the legislation and the university regulations are set out in the Annex)

Regarding the deadline for submitting the doctoral dissertation, the general regulations contain the following elements:

- The doctoral student – in the same way as a student of any other programme – can suspend the student status several times but the consecutive interruption of the student status cannot last longer than two semesters, however, it can be extended for reasons of fairness. (A different rule applies to the research and dissertation phase of the doctoral training.)
- The student status is terminated if the doctoral student has completed the requirements of the doctoral training, obtained the credits of courses, research and education, and completed the complex exam.
- The second phase of the doctoral programme (following the complex exam), the four-semester-long research and dissertation phase is part of the doctoral procedure.
- The student may suspend his / her student status in the doctoral procedure (meaning: in the research and dissertation phase) for a maximum of two semesters in total, during this phase this period cannot be extended even for reasons of fairness.
- The doctoral student must submit his / her dissertation within three academic years after the complex exam. (This deadline is independent of the legal status of the three academic years. The student may spend two academic years in student status, then one without an active status after graduation, or all three academic years in active student status.)
- At the request of the doctoral student, the three-academic-year period of the submission obligation may be extended by a maximum of one academic year for reasons of fairness, based on the decision of the disciplinary doctoral council. The request should be submitted before the original deadline.

Based on all this, the dissertation should normally be submitted in three academic years after the complex exam, or in four academic years on the basis of a fairness decision. In the latter case, the fairness decision can be made for the period after the termination of the student's status. Schedules after the complex exam can be the following:

1. default case: 2 academic years of student status + 1 academic year after graduation until the submission of the dissertation;
2. extension: 3 academic years extended student status (2 active + 1 academic year terminated), the dissertation must be submitted at the end of academic year 3;
3. with reasons of fairness after the termination of the student status

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<sup>1</sup> The document had been updated according to the regulations of the Act LIII in 2021 and the Government Decree 217 in 2021.

- 3.1. according to the default case a further extension of maximum 1 academic year may be granted after the 1-academic-year period following the graduation or
- 3.2. according to the extended student status (see point two above) a maximum of 1 academic year may be granted after the 3 academic years of student status.

The rules mentioned above can be applied to the doctoral students of the new type of doctoral procedure regardless of the epidemiological situation. If a decision of equity has to be decided up, decision will be made individually on a case by case basis, therefore a grounded reasoning with a documentation of proof attached is needed to be submitted by the student before the deadline expires.

### **Rules according to the epidemiological preparedness**

Based on the legal provisions related to epidemiological preparedness, 2019/2020 spring semester of the academic year is to be ignored in the case of the interruption of the student status for a maximum duration of two semesters in the research and dissertation phase.

With reference to this, the university has adopted the provisions set by the university's Epidemiological Operative Coordinating Body (official Hungarian abbreviation: JOKT) on temporary special study and examination regulations. Based on the legal provisions, the 2019/2020 spring semester should be ignored in the case of the two-semester limit of the suspension of the student status in the research and dissertation phase. Those who passed their complex examination between 1 February 2018 and 10 May 2021 have to submit their doctoral dissertation within four academic years after the date of their complex examination. The last days of the academic year's semester are 31 January (spring) and 31 August (fall). These students may suspend their student status in the doctoral procedure (meaning: in the research and dissertation phase) for a maximum of four semesters in total.

The doctoral students concerned will automatically receive the extra time due to the change in the deadline calculation, they do not have to apply for it separately and they do not have to submit a request of equity.

Faculty of Education and Psychology  
Student Affairs and Registrar's Office  
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## Legal and regulatory background

### **Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education**

**Section 45** (1) The student's status shall be interrupted if the student declares that he/she does not intend to fulfil student obligations during the next semester, or fails to register for the next semester. The total combined duration over which the student may interrupt his/her studies may not exceed two semesters. Students may suspend their status several times, in accordance with specifications stipulated in the Academic and Examination Regulations.

(2) Pursuant to the request of the student, the higher education institution may equally authorise the suspension of student enrolment

a) for a combined period exceeding the duration laid down in Paragraph (1) [...]

on condition that the Student is unable to fulfil obligations ensuing from his/her student status for reasons beyond their control, because of child-birth, an accident or illness, or other unforeseen reason.

**Section 53.** (2) The doctoral student take part in the doctoral procedure by completing the research and dissertation phase following the complex exam aiming the obtainment of the doctoral degree.

4) Doctoral students shall submit their doctoral dissertations within three academic years from the comprehensive examination, as set out in the doctoral rules. In cases deserving special consideration, provided for in Article 45(2), this time limit may be extended by not more than one academic year, as set out in the doctoral rules. During the procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree, student status shall not be suspended for a period of more than two semesters.

**Section 59.** (1) The student status shall be terminated [...]

d) on the last day of the semester in which the student obtained the pre-degree certificate (absolutorium).

### **Act LVIII of 2020 on certain rules relating the termination of the state of danger and to epidemiological measures**

**Section 79** (4) The spring semester of the 2019/2020 academic year shall not be taken into consideration when applying the rules in connection with the suspension of the student status in Article 45 (1) and when applying the Article 53 (4) of Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education.

### **2017/2021. (VI. 30.) Government Decree on the extension of the deadline for submitting the doctoral dissertation during the epidemiological preparedness**

**Section 1.** (1) Unlike the regulation of the Section 53 (4) of the Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education those who passed their complex examination between 1 February 2018 and 10 May 2021 have to submit their doctoral dissertation within four academic years after the date of their complex examination. In cases deserving special consideration this time limit may be extended by not more than one year, as set out in the doctoral rules.

(2) Students specified in (1) may suspend their student status in the doctoral procedure for a maximum of four semesters in total.

### **Doctoral Regulations [2016]**

**Section 33** (2) Regulations on the conditions of granting students permission to suspend their student status for a period of more than two semesters shall be laid out in the individual faculty doctoral regulations.

**Section 59** (1) The decision on the extension of the deadline for submitting the doctoral dissertation prescribed by Section 53 (4) of Nftv. under the application of special equity shall be taken by the Disciplinary Doctoral Council at the request of the Student or former Student (hereinafter jointly referred to as Doctoral Candidate).

(2) The request must be submitted before the expiry of the deadline for submitting the doctoral dissertation. Any documents that may support the need for the application of special equity and a statement of approval from the topic supervisor must be attached to the request.

### **Doctoral Regulations [2016] Annex 6/4 Doctoral Regulations for the Faculty of Education and Psychology**

**Section 15** (4) The Dean, based on the opinion of the management of the DIT and at the written request of the Student, may allow for the suspension of studies in the training and research phase of the programme for a combined period more than two semesters,

- a) if the Student is pregnant, or is raising a child younger than three years of age,
- b) if the Student has suffered an accident or suffers from a prolonged illness and is temporarily unable to continue his/her studies,
- c) if the Student taking part in a state-funded programme wishes to establish an employment status with another employer for a definite period,
- d) if the Student is working abroad,
- e) with respect to any other personal circumstance of the Student warranting special equity.

(5) The doctoral studies may not be suspended for a period longer than six consecutive semesters even in the cases laid out in paragraph (4).

(6) The Student may not be allowed to suspend his/her student status in the research and dissertation phase of the programme for a combined period longer than two semesters even out of reasons warranting equity.

### **[Amendments to Eötvös Loránd University's temporary special academic and exam regulations pertaining to the hybrid education model enacted in view of the state of epidemiological preparedness covering regulations on student assessment \(22 October 2020\)](#)**

#### **Special Regulations of the Doctoral Regulations (2016) Annex 6 of the HKR in a state of epidemiological preparedness**

1. Under Article 79 (4) of Act LVIII of 2020, the spring semester of the 2019/2020 academic year shall not be taken into consideration when applying Article 53 (4) of Nftv. and Section 33 of the Doctoral Regulations.

3. Under Article 79 (4) of Act LVIII of 2020, the spring semester of the 2019/2020 academic year shall not be taken into consideration when applying Article 53 (4) of Nftv. and Section 59 of the Doctoral Regulations.