



A PhD Project in Tourism Studies: Main Guidelines and Structure of the Curriculum

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Supervision and coordination of postgraduate studies in tourism

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Starting the PhD project

Each PhD candidate is asked to read [the Postgraduate Study Guide of the Faculty of Social Sciences](#). This guide discusses the practices related to the postgraduate study process in the faculty. In the Faculty of Social Studies, the administrative study affairs regarding post-graduate studies are handled by the chief of administration Jukka Sankala.

A **process supervisor** is appointed for the postgraduate's research when the admission decision is made. The main role of the process supervisor is to supervise the doctoral process in its entirety, in addition to other dimensions of supervision which fall under her/his scholarship (e.g. theory, methodology, empirical expertise of the topic area). The process supervision has to be in the hands of one supervisor, rather than being divided equally between two supervisors, in order to grant a systematic progress and follow-up of the project.

A reciprocal contract, **supervision agreement**, is made between the supervisor and the candidate. It clearly defines the responsibilities to which the supervisor and the postgraduate commit themselves in their supervision relationship. No later than a year after the beginning of studies the supervision relationship is revised and an assessment is made whether there is a need for more extensive supervision (a methodological supervisor, a theory supervisor, etc.).

All those admitted to study for a postgraduate degree must make a personal **Doctoral Study Plan** (*jatko-opintosuunnitelma, JOPS*) together with the process supervisor. The plan is mandatory. The candidate sends the study plan, signed by both parties, to the chief of administration (Jukka Sankala) within six months from the beginning of the first term of the postgraduate studies. Later, the study plan serves also as a Progress Report (etenemisraportti).



Proceeding with the PhD project

Updating the Personal Study Plan/Progress report:

Each candidate is asked to update her/his progress report **every year** in August and send it to one's supervisor. The supervisors present the progress of each candidate in the Supervisory Meeting in September, organized by the coordinators of the postgraduate studies in tourism.

Meetings with one's supervisors:

The candidate is asked to organize **a meeting with all her/his supervisors at least once a year**. Early or late autumn (before updating the progress report or together with the doctoral seminar, see the Annual Calendar) are recommended occasions for this. If the meeting is not organized in August, the candidate is asked to mention in her/his progress report when the supervisor meeting will take place.

It is recommendable that during the first study year the process supervisor and the candidate discuss once a month (or every second month) the project, and the supervisor follows and thus supports the progress of the research plan.

Publications:

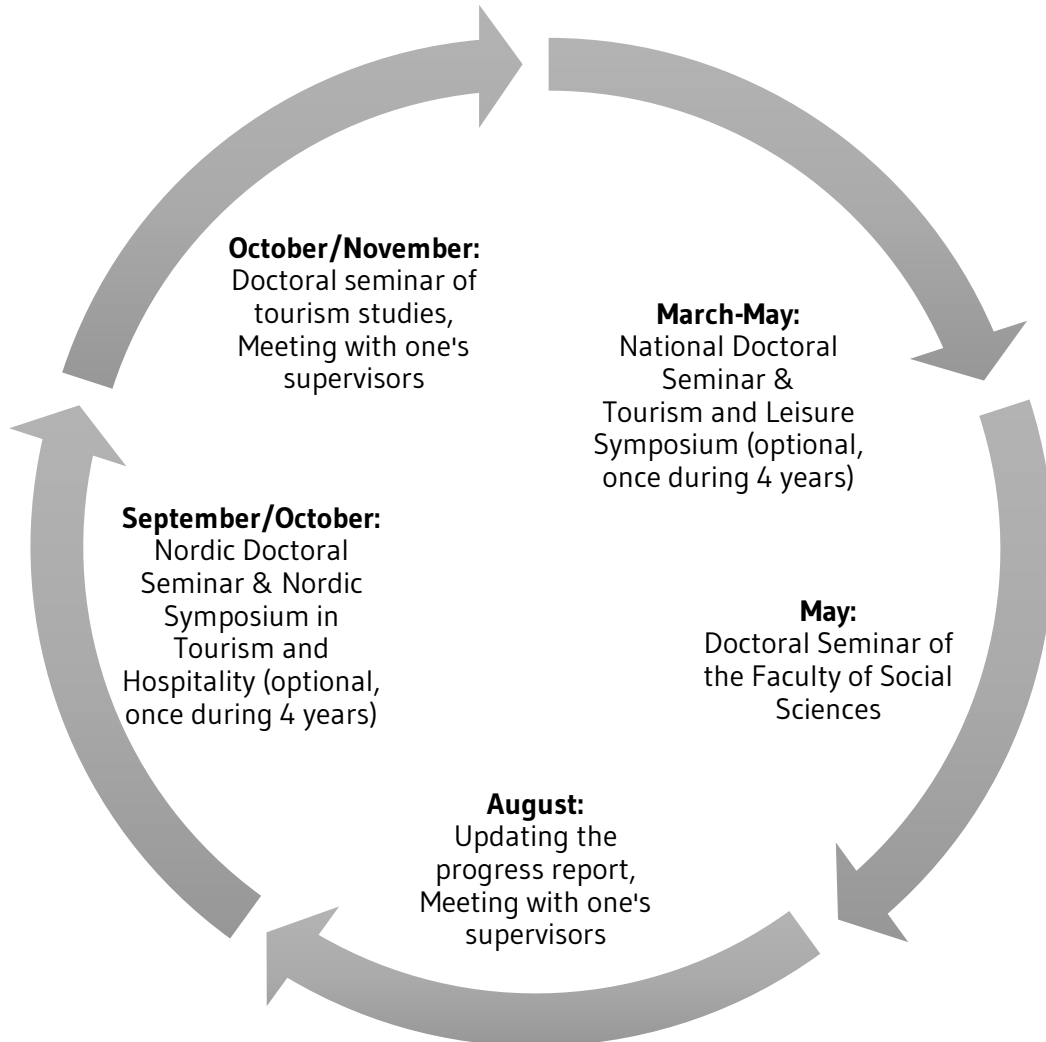
When publishing something related to her/his PhD project, the candidate is asked to save the bibliographic information of the publication to LaCRIS research portal (see what is said about LaCRIS [here](#)).

Doctoral seminar participations:

The candidate should present a paper at least in one (preferably two) of the four doctoral seminars mentioned in the Annual Calendar during every academic year. The candidate can also suggest participation in other suitable PhD seminar available either at the University of Lapland or at other universities. In the progress report, she/he should mention in which seminar(s) she/he is participating and presenting the project.



Annual Calendar of a PhD Project





Structure of the Curriculum for Postgraduate Studies in Tourism

Please note that there are many courses that can be accomplished via distance learning (online courses, literature exams, essays and other written productions, etc.).

Thematic doctoral programmes:

- (Supplementary studies if needed, maximum 20 ects)
- Philosophy of science and general research skills, 20 ects
- Discipline-specific and faculty-specific studies, 20 ects
- Studies of the doctoral programme, 20 ects
- Doctoral dissertation, 180 ects

General doctoral programme:

- (Supplementary studies if needed, maximum 20 ects)
- Philosophy of science and general research skills, 20 ects
- Discipline-specific and faculty-specific studies, 40 ects
- Doctoral dissertation, 180 ects

Supplementary studies, maximum 20 ects

For candidates whose previous studies relate to a field other than that of the major subject (tourism studies) of the postgraduate degree, maximum 20 ects.

- Participation in a thematic course given in tourism studies (5 ects/each), e.g. Cultural and Social Studies of Tourism, Matkailu yhteiskunnassa, Ethical Epistemologies of Tourism. 10 ects
- Field Course – Northern Tourism in Practice. 10 ects

Philosophy of science and general researcher skills, 20 ects (POSTG03)

- The studies are arranged jointly with the Graduate School of the University of Lapland and their contents are identical for all postgraduate candidates of the university. See [Graduate School web pages](#)

Discipline-specific and faculty-specific studies, 40 ects (general doctoral programme) or **20 ects** (thematic doctoral programmes).

POSTG01 Studies in the relevant field of science, 10 ects

- “Theoretical classics and contemporary discussions” of tourism studies
- Tailored literature exams and/or courses complementary to the doctoral candidate’s earlier fields of scholarship, and relevant for the Phd Project.



POSTG02 Expertise in the area of research, 10 ects

- More cross-disciplinary knowledge of the empirical study area, demonstrated through articles, research reports, and other written productions as well as lectures, teaching modules, or presentations in the working life or in academic contexts.
- Articles, research reports, and other written productions can also be counted as study achievements, provided that they increase and demonstrate the postgraduate's expertise in the field. The number of credits depends on e.g. the length of the paper, the level of the seminar, and the intensity of work done in a work group: A presentation in an international seminar 3–6 cr.; A presentation in a national seminar 3–6 cr.

POSTG04 Working life skills, 5 ects

- As listed in the Postgraduate Study Guide (p. 23).
- The module can be executed e.g. in the form of an internship.

POSTG05 Social influencing, 5 ects

- Popularisation and dissemination of one's research field and research findings either through media, teaching or seminars for the wide audience.

POSTG06 Postgraduate seminar, 10 ects

- Participation in Doctoral Workshops or Writing Camps in Tourism Studies (November/December), Doctoral Seminar of Faculty of Social Sciences (May), the National Doctoral Seminar in Tourism and Leisure (March, once during the postgraduate studies), and the Nordic Doctoral Seminar in Tourism and Hospitality (September/October, once during the postgraduate studies). See the guidelines for doctoral seminar participations, p. 2.

POSTG300 Doctoral thesis, 180 ects