

**NEWSLETTER of the DOCTORAL SCHOOL**

**Dear Lecturers, Supervisors and PhD Students!**

In the newsletter below, we have collected up-to-date information about PhD training.

**PhD STUDENTS’ RECLASSIFICATION TO THE DOCTORAL SECTIONS OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL/COLLEGE AT SEMMELWEIS UNIVERSITY**

From the autumn semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, the former 8 doctoral schools have been merged, and from 1 September 2023, the unified Doctoral School of Semmelweis University (i.e. Doctoral College of the Semmelweis University) has started its operation within the framework of 11 Doctoral Divisions consisting of 51 PhD programs. Accordingly, active students at Neptun and on the *doktori.hu* website have been reclassified.

Students who have previously graduated will continue to be assigned to the old Departmental Doctoral Schools within the *doktori.hu* database and thus obtain PhD degrees.

**CHANGES TO THE PhD DEGREE ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS**

For PhD students admitted from the fall semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, the publication requirements for obtaining a PhD degree have been modified. In their case, only publications rated D1, Q1 or Q2 should be counted towards the achievement of the PhD degree acquisition requirements.

From 1 September 2023, the language requirements for obtaining a PhD degree have been modified. That is, the knowledge of English is compulsory which can be certified by a diploma obtained in an English-language course, an intermediate language exam certificate, or a certificate issued either by the Institute of Languages for Specific Purposes of Semmelweis University or the PhD supervisor.

All PhD students participating in the PhD training are obliged to participate in one public PhD defence every semester from 2024 February, certified by the chairman or secretary of the PhD defence committee. Certificates must be submitted along with the PhD thesis during the PhD degree acquisition procedure. The form for the certificate can be downloaded from the website of the Doctoral School: <https://semmelweis.hu/phd/files/2024/03/CERTIFICATE-OF-ATTENDANCE-A-PUBLIC-DEFENCE.docx>

The permission to defend publicly in Hungarian has been transferred to the heads of Doctoral Sections, and in case of permission to defend in Hungarian, it is mandatory to submit a *Thesis Booklet* in Hungarian.

In order to speed up the PhD degree acquisition procedure, the formal pre-evaluation of PhD theses was taken over by the Doctoral Office under the professional supervision of Quality Control and Evaluation Board (QCEB) from the autumn semester of the 2023/2024 academic year.

**CHANGES IN REGULATIONS RELATED TO TERMINATION OF STUDENT STATUS**

From 1 February 2024, the termination of the PhD student status is possible in two phases, involving the mediation service of the Research Management Working Group.

The procedure is defined in the Doctoral Regulations as follows:

"If the PhD supervisor is not satisfied with the research work carried out by his PhD student in a given semester, he or she must notify the PhD student in writing no later than 60 days before the end of the semester.

Subsequently, both the PhD student and the PhD supervisor may request the mediation service of the Research Management Working Group in solving the problem, possibly changing PhD supervisors.

If the PhD student still does not perform his research work properly, the PhD supervisor may refuse to certify the semester's research work at Neptun.

If research credits are denied, the PhD student may submit a request for appeal to Board of Appeals.

In the absence of a request for review or its rejection, the PhD student's student status shall be terminated at the end of the given semester pursuant to Section 59 (3) (a) of the National Higher Education Act (Nftv.)."

**"PRIORITY PhD DEFENSES" APPLICATION**

We provide a special opportunity to support the outstanding PhD theses defences organized in the Semmelweis Saloon. The Semmelweis University Doctoral School contributes HUF 100,000 to the costs of its catering services.

Application is available in the following link:

<https://semmelweis.hu/phd/2024/02/09/palyazati-felhivas-kiemelt-doktori-vedesekre-2/>

**"CONDITIONS FOR THE REMUNERATION OF EXTERNAL PhD SUPERVISORS FOR PUBLICATION IN A D1 JOURNAL**According to the SJR, the conditions for remuneration of HUF 1,000,000 for publications classified as D1 are set out in the following rector-chancellor's instruction:

<https://semmelweis.hu/human/2022/10/13/a-kiemelkedo-tudomanyos-publikacios-tevekenyseg-elismerese/>

The condition of remuneration is that the corresponding author indicates the University as an affiliation on the publication, while in case of multiple affiliation 50 per cent of the remuneration is due. Supervisors who are not in an employment relationship with the University may also fulfil the latter condition by establishing a voluntary helper legal relationship with Semmelweis University.

For more information, please feel free to contact us at [phd.titkarsag@semmelweis.hu](mailto:phd.titkarsag@semmelweis.hu) email address.

Yours,

**Dr. Zoltán Benyó**

**President of the University Doctoral Council**

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**2024. 02. 19.**