

BIO 810 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

Postgraduate Studies' Regulations of UCY

According to the Postgraduate Studies' Regulations of the University of Cyprus 'The nature and procedures of conducting and evaluation of a Comprehensive Examination is regulated in the program of studies of the respective Department'. The Department is responsible for programming its comprehensive examinations. Each student has two opportunities, between the 3rd and the 7th semester of his/her studies.

Departmental Regulations

The Department of Biological Studies offers the opportunity of a Comprehensive Examination during both the fall and the spring semesters of each academic year.

A student is automatically expelled from the postgraduate program in the case he/she has completed 7 semesters of study and has not yet succeeded in the Comprehensive Examination, according to the provisions of his/her program of studies. In exceptional cases (e.g., serious medical reasons), and after a timely application by the student, it is possible to be granted an extension of the deadline.

Registration of students in 'Comprehensive Examination'

The postgraduate student should register in the code BIO 810 Comprehensive Examination at the specific semester when he/she plans to undertake it. In case the student registers but does not present it, he/she is automatically assigned with a zero grade.

The Departmental Committee for Postgraduate Studies submits a list of successful students for approval to the Departmental Council. The postgraduate student that has been successful in his/her Comprehensive Examination is then considered a PhD candidate.

Examining Committee

An examining committee, consisting of three members, is constituted for the Comprehensive Examination of each student.

The committee is constituted by the Departmental Council, after suggestions by the Departmental Committee for Postgraduate Studies and the Research Advisor, which serves as Head of the Committee. One member of the examining committee can come from another Department and/or University or Research Institute, but with closely relevant research interests.

Presentation

The presentation of the Comprehensive Examination is made exclusively in front of the three-member committee.

Grades

The Comprehensive Examination can be graded either as Success or Failure. There is no option for an 'Incomplete Grade'.

Structure and Procedures

The Comprehensive Examination is prepared on a subject that is different from of the student's doctoral research project, after discussions with their Research Advisor. The text has to have the structure of a research project and a maximum extent of 22 pages (without references).

The proposal of this research project is presented in front of the examining committee for a maximum of 40 minutes, without interruption, except for a few possible short clarifications by committee members. After the presentation, the committee examines the student in order to evaluate the level of understanding of the proposal subject, the attainability of the project and the range of the student's knowledge, who can be examined also on subjects related to that of the proposal.

Students can ask their Research Advisor for advice and help, so that they can gain a deeper understanding of the importance, the structure and the aims of a research proposal. They are expected, nevertheless, to take initiative, so that their abilities in conceiving ideas, designing and conducting research projects can be evaluated.

It is advised that the research proposal has the following structure:

- A first page with the name of the student
- A summary up to 500 words
- Introduction and current knowledge, up to 4 pages
- Scientific hypothesis and specific aims, up to 2 pages
- Importance and innovation of the proposal, up to 2 pages
- Materials and Methods, up to 10 pages
- Appendices, up to 3 pages
- Budget. It is possible, if needed, to include also contributions from other experts as advisors or for specialized services (e.g., statistical analyses of data etc). The budget should include equipment and consumables purchase, participation in congresses, travel and field work expenses, publication fees, unpredicted expenses etc. The budget should be delivered in electronic format, as an Excel file.
- References (no limits)

The text of the proposal should be in Greek or English.