

Doctoral Studies at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) offers a Doctoral Studies Program leading to the award of a PhD degree in History and Philosophy of Science. The Program is intended to support original scientific research in fields that fall within the Department's academic and research interests.

Who can apply?

Applicants for admission to the Doctoral Studies Program may be:

- holders of a Master's degree awarded by a higher education institution in Greece or abroad; or
- graduates of an undergraduate program of at least five years' duration corresponding to 300 ECTS credits.

In both cases, the degree must have been awarded by a higher education institution recognized by the Hellenic National Registry of Recognized Higher Educational Institutes and Academic Degrees (DOATAP). Applicants may consult the DOATAP's official site (<https://mitroa.doatap.gr/>) to verify whether their university is recognized.

Applicants must also demonstrate very good knowledge of English (at least C1 level). Depending on the topic of the proposed doctoral research, knowledge of additional languages may also be required.

When can they apply?

Applications may be submitted twice each academic year, following the publication of a relevant call for applications or expression of interest, during the following periods:

- **1–31 October**
- **1–31 March**

Application procedure

Applicants submit their application to the Secretariat of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

The application must include:

1. Application form (found on the website page) for the preparation of a doctoral thesis, including:
 - a. the proposed title of the doctoral thesis
 - b. the proposed supervisor.

The application must be signed by both the applicant and the proposed supervisor.

2. Detailed CV
3. Thesis proposal (max. 5000 words) in English, which should include at least:
 - a brief overview and delimitation of the research area
 - an account of the main directions of international research, with emphasis on research published during the last decade
 - a brief description of the applicant's proposed research, including its aims and research questions

- an outline of the proposed structure of the thesis
- references/bibliography
- 4. Copies of undergraduate degrees
- 5. Copies of postgraduate degrees
- 6. Academic transcripts of undergraduate and graduate studies
- 7. Certification of very good knowledge of the English language (at least C1 level)
- 8. Two letters of recommendation from higher education (reference letters are to be sent directly to the secretariat)
- 9. Copy of ID (EU only) or valid passport
- 10. Signed declaration (form is found on the website page) that *'I neither prepare nor have submitted a thesis with the same or similar subject to another higher education institution in Greece or abroad'*
- 11. Publications, if any

Evaluation and admission

- The Department's Doctoral Studies Committee reviews the applications and supporting documents. Applicants who meet the formal eligibility requirements may be invited for an interview.
- The Doctoral Studies Committee submits a recommendation to the Department Assembly regarding the admission of each applicant. The Department Assembly makes the final decision on admission.
- In some cases, an admitted doctoral candidate may also be required to attend a number of postgraduate courses or seminars offered by the Department. The Doctoral Studies Committee may recommend up to six such courses or seminars, which must normally be completed within two years.

Supervision and the Three-Member Advisory Committee

Each doctoral candidate is supervised by a Three-Member Advisory Committee, which monitors the progress of the doctoral research and provides guidance throughout the research and writing process.

The Committee may include faculty members of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science or other departments of NKUA, faculty members of other higher education institutions, emeritus or retired faculty members, researchers, and faculty members or researchers from institutions abroad, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Duration of PhD studies

The minimum period for completing a PhD is three full calendar years, calculated from the date on which the Three-Member Advisory Committee is appointed, while the maximum period for completing the doctoral thesis is six calendar years.

Under specific circumstances, the Department Assembly may approve the **extension** of up to one additional year, following a reasoned request by the

doctoral candidate and the agreement of the Three-Member Advisory Committee.

A doctoral candidate may also request a **suspension** of studies for up to two calendar years in total, provided that the maximum period of study has not yet been exceeded. The period of suspension does not count towards the maximum duration of doctoral studies.

Progress during the PhD

Doctoral candidates are expected to work in cooperation with their supervisor and Advisory Committee and to participate in the academic activities of the Department.

Each September, doctoral candidates must renew their registration by submitting a progress report of at least 400 words. They must subsequently present the progress of their doctoral research at a public presentation session. Within two years of registration, candidates must submit an extended piece of academic work of at least 10,000 words, constituting a draft part of the doctoral thesis, together with evidence of completion of any postgraduate courses or seminars required by the Department.

The Three-Member Advisory Committee evaluates the candidate's progress and determines whether the research is progressing satisfactorily.

Thesis requirements and public defence

The doctoral thesis must have a minimum length of 50,000 words, including references, footnotes, and tables.

Before the public defence, the doctoral candidate must have at least one peer-reviewed publication or one peer-reviewed presentation at an international conference held in Greece or abroad.

Once the thesis has been completed and the Three-Member Advisory Committee has provided written approval, the candidate submits the thesis in digital form and requests its public defence.

The final evaluation is conducted by a Seven-Member Examination Committee, which includes the members of the Three-Member Advisory Committee and four additional members appointed in accordance with the Doctoral Studies Regulations.

The doctoral thesis is defended publicly before the Seven-Member Examination Committee. During the defence, the candidate presents the main points of the thesis and answers questions from the Committee. Members of the audience may also ask questions with the permission of the Chair. The entire procedure may last up to three hours and may be conducted by videoconference where applicable.

The Examination Committee evaluates the thesis in terms of its quality, completeness, originality, and contribution to science. For the award of the PhD degree, at least five members of the Seven-Member Examination Committee must vote in favor.

Tuition fees and doctoral student rights

Doctoral studies at the Department are free of tuition fees.

For six years from their initial registration, doctoral candidates retain the rights and benefits provided to postgraduate students, including, among others, access to student support, awards, scholarships, and representation in collective university bodies.

Doctoral candidates may also participate in research projects and programs of NKUA or other higher education institutions, apply for scholarships, and conduct part of their research at another university, institute, or research center in Greece or abroad. They are also encouraged to participate in conferences and other academic events in Greece and internationally.

Further information

For further information about the Doctoral Studies Program, please contact the Secretariat of the Doctoral Studies Program:

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