

**TRAINING PLAN, CURRICULUM AND COMPLEX EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR FULL-TIME PHD STUDENTS OF THE 4-YEAR (2+2) DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF
CLINICAL MEDICINE AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED**

10 January, 2020., updated in September 2024

Program head: Prof. Kemény Lajos MD, PhD, DSc

Chair: **Prof. Lajos Kemény MD, DSc, MHAS**
Department of Dermatology and Allergology
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 6., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 546 465,
E-mail: kemeny.lajos@med.u-szeged.hu

Secretary: **Dr. Kornélia Szabó PhD**
Department of Dermatology and Allergology
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 6., Hungary

Administrator: Eszter Martinovits
Department of Dermatology and Allergology
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 6., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 546 465
E-mail: martinovits.eszter@med.u-szeged.hu

10 Doctoral programs (PhD programs) of the Doctoral School:

I. Dermatology:

PhD program director: Prof. Lajos Kemény MD, DSc, MHAS
Department of Dermatology and Allergology
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 6., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 546 465,
E-mail: kemeny.lajos@med.u-szeged.hu

II. Immunology:

PhD program director: Prof. Zsuzsanna Bata-Csörgő MD, DSc
Department of Dermatology and Allergology
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 6., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 545 996,
E-mail: bata.zsuzsa@med.u-szeged.hu

III. Reproductive Health:

PhD program director: Prof. Gábor Németh
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
H-6725 Szeged, Semmelweis u. 1., Hungary
Phone.: (+36 62) 545 491, E-mail: nemeth.gabor@med.u-szeged.hu

IV. Clinical and Experimental Neurosciences:

PhD program director: Prof. László Vecsei MD, MHAS
Department of Neurology
H-6725 Szeged, Semmelweis u. 6., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 545 348, Fax: (+36 62) 545 597
E-mail: vecsei.laszlo@med.u-szeged.hu

V. Experimental and Clinical Investigation of the Cardiovascular System

PhD program director: Prof. Tamás Forster
2nd Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiology Center
H-6725 Szeged, Semmelweis u. 8., Hungary
Phone: (+36 62) 545 820
E-mail: forster.tamas@med.u-szeged.hu

VI. Clinical and Experimental Research for Reconstructive and Organ-Sparing Surgery

PhD program director: Prof. György Lázár
Department of Surgery
H-6725 Szeged, Semmelweis u. 8.
Phone: (+36 62) 545 445
E-mail: lazar.gyorgy@med.u-szeged.hu

VII. Study on the Pathomechanisms and Therapeutic Possibilities of Different Diseases in Children

PhD program director: Prof. Márta Katona
Department of Pediatrics
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 14-15.
Phone: (+36 62) 545 330
E-mail: katona.marta@med.u-szeged.hu

VIII. Dental Medicine (*Research in Dental Medicine*) >>

PhD program director: Prof. Melinda Madléna
Faculty of Dentistry
H-6720 Szeged, Tisza Lajos körút 64-66.
Phone: (+36 62) 545305
E-mail: madlena.melinda@stoma.u-szeged.hu

IX. Translational Medicine

PhD program director: Prof. Dr. Péter Hegyi
1st Department of Internal Medicine
H-6720 Szeged, Korányi fasor 8-10.
Phone: (+36 62) 545 200
E-mail: hegyi.peter@med.u-szeged.hu

X. Inflammatory Bowel Disease

PhD program director: Prof. Dr. Tamás Molnár
1st Department of Internal Medicine
H-6725 Szeged, Kálvária sgt. 57.
Phone: (+36 62) 545 186
E-mail: molnar.tamas@med.u-szeged.hu

STUDY REQUIREMENTS

General rules:

- Minimum 20 and maximum 45 credits should be collected in each semesters.
- Minimum 90 credits should be collected in the first 4 semesters, which is a requirement for the admission to the complex examination.
- Students should collect minimum 240 credits during the 8 semesters (2 + 2 years).
- For teaching activities, 8 credits can be given in each semesters, up to a total of 48 credits.

- Yearly research reports: 3 credits can be earned for each; minimum 1, maximum 4 summaries can be rewarded by a maximum of 12 credits.

The training plan consists of 4 parts (modules I-IV):

Credits for Modules I/a + I/b (min. 38 credits)

Module I.a: Basic (obligatory) PhD courses (20 credits)

<i>Basic module</i>														
Course name	Name of department coordinator	Total number of hours	Requirements	Number of credits in the given semester								Total No. of credits	Form of evaluation	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Computer-assisted research methodology	Department of Medical Physics and Informatics Prof. Dr. Ferenc Peták	28	C*	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	E5
Biostatistics Lecture	Department of Medical Physics and Informatics Dr. Krisztina Boda	28	C	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	E5
Biostatistics Practice	Department of Medical Physics and Informatics Dr. Krisztina Boda	20	C	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	E3
Scientific communication and publication. Methods, rules, and ethics.	Department of Medical Biology Prof. Dr. Ernő Duda	14	C	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	E5
Biomedical Ethics	Department of Behavioral Sciences Dr. Oguz Kelemen	14	C	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	E5
<i>The total No. of credits in Basic Module I/a</i>				14	6	-	20							

*C (Compulsory subject)

Module I.b: Special (PhD program-related) PhD courses

(in each PhD programs (specialization) **min. 18 credits** must be collected in the first 4 semesters)

The complex examination must be completed at the end of the 2nd year (4th Semester).

Sum of **all compulsory training credits** (basic and PhD program-specific) credits: 20 + 18 = **38 credits**

1. DERMATOLOGY PhD program

Programme director: Prof. Dr. Lajos Kemény

Clinical Dermatology (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Lajos Kemény. 28 hours, 6 credits, end-semester exam, 2-4 pm Wednesdays)

Differential Diagnosis of Inflammatory Skin Diseases (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Lajos Kemény. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam, 8-10 am Fridays)

Differential Diagnostic Procedures in Dermato-Oncology (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Judit Oláh. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam, 2-4 pm Tuesdays)

2. IMMUNOLOGY program

Program Director: Prof. Dr. Zsuzsanna Bata-Csörgő

The courses below are COMPULSORY for students doing their PhD in Immunology:

Clinical Immunology and Allergology (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Zsuzsanna Bata-Csörgő. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam)

Clinical Dermatology (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Lajos Kemény. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam, 14-16 Wednesdays)

Differential Diagnosis of Inflammatory Skin Diseases (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Lajos Kemény. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam, 8-10 Fridays)

The courses below are ELECTIVE, but recommended for students doing their PhD in Immunology:

Differential Diagnostic Procedures in Dermato-Oncology (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Judit Oláh. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam, 14-16 Tuesdays)

Selected Chapters from Immunology (Coordinator: Dr. Zoltán Veréb. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam)

Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology (Coordinator: Dr. Zoltán Veréb. 28 hours, 6 credits, final exam)

3. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PhD program

Programme Director: Prof. Dr. György Bártfai

4. EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCES PhD program

Programme Director: Prof. Dr. László Vécsei

5. EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM PhD program

Program Director: Prof. Dr. Tamás Forster

6. CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE AND ORGAN-SPARING SURGERY PhD programme

Program Director: Prof. Dr. György Lázár

Craniofacial Malformations - Clinical Team Meeting (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. József Piffkó, 2 hours/ week, 30 hours/semester, 6 credits. 2-4 pm Tuesdays, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical Center, University of Szeged, 57 Kálvária sugárút, Szeged, Hungary)

Clinical Maxillofacial Consultations (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. József Piffkó, 2 hours/ week, 6 credits. 12-14 Tuesdays, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical Center, University of Szeged, 57 Kálvária sugárút, Szeged, Hungary)

1 credit can be allocated for 30 hours of research activity. The recommended number of research hours per semester is 600 hours, which equals to 20 credits.

150 hours/semester (~7-8 hours/week)	5 credits
300 hours/semester (~15 hours/week)	10 credits
450 hours/semester (~22-23 hours/week)	15 credits
600 hours/semester (~30 hours/week)	20 credits

Recommended number of credits for research activities: 20 credits in all 8 semesters= 160 credits

Further *elective* credits can be allocated for other research activities:

- participation at scientific conferences and professional courses, workshops: max. 2 credits each
- oral or poster presentation at international conferences 5 credits

II/b. Research report: 3 credits each report max. 12 credits/ 8 semesters

The total number of reports may not exceed 4. Reporting is recommended at the end of semesters 2, 4, 6 and 8.

PhD students cannot be allocated more than 172 credits for completing their research activities.

Module III.: Teaching activities (optional)

Module IV.:Publication activities (obligatory, continuous)

a) **Impact factor based requirements:** until 31.12.2023.

A continuous training criterion: min. 2publications, min. 65 credits, max. 90 credits).

Number of publications required for completing the PhD training:

- min. 1 publication where the PhD student is the first author
- min. 2 original research articles, min. 1 of which is published in a journal with an impact factor and the combined impact factor of the 2 articles has to fulfill the requirements of the PhD program

The number of impact factors required by the Doctoral School of Clinical Medicine:

1. Immunology	4.0
2. Dermatology	2.0
3. Reproductive Health	2.0
4. Clinical and Experimental Neurosciences	4.0
5. Experimental and Clinical Investigation of the Cardiovascular System	3.0
6. Clinical and Experimental Research for Reconstructive and Organ-Sparing Surgery	2.0
7. Study on the Pathomechanisms and Therapeutic Possibilities of Different Diseases in Children	2.5
8. Dental Medicine	2.0
9. Translational Medicine	5,0
10. Inflammatory bowel disease	4,0

Regarding the publications, where the PhD student is not the first author, all the other co-authors need to sign an authorization form, in which they authorize the student to include the given paper and its contents in his/her PhD thesis.

The lead author has to issue a statement authorising the PhD student to include the paper in their thesis.

b) D/Q based requirements: Mandatory from 01.01.2024

Number of credit points may be collected for publication activity:

English article with no IF:	20 credits
English article with IF:	45 credits
Poster presentation at an international event:	5 credits
Oral presentation at an international event*:	5 credits
Participation in scientific conferences, courses, workshops:	2 credits

**(also if held in Hungary)*

Total number of credit points for publication activity (publications, posters and oral presentations):
min. 65 – max. 90 credits.

Signed by Prof. Lajos Kemény

Recommended Curriculum

Min. and max. number of credit points in each semester for full-time students in the 4-year (2+2) program (min. 20, max. 45 credits)

Semester 1:

Subjects in the Basic Module:	6+3 credits
Compulsory subjects:	6 credits
Research activities:	20 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 39

Semester 2:

Subjects in the Basic Module:	6+3+2 credits
Compulsory subjects:	6 credits
Research activities and report:	20+3 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 44

Total number of credits for Semesters 1 and 2: 83 if the student took part in teaching activities

Semester 3:

Compulsory subjects:	6 credits
Research activities:	20 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 30

Semester 4:

Research activities:	20 credits
Research report:	3 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 27

Total number of credits for Semesters 3 and 4: 57 if the student took part in teaching activities

Minimum 90 credits should be earned in Semesters 1–4 to be eligible for taking a **complex examination**. The acquisition of 90 credits is feasible for all PhD students.

if the student took part in teaching activities (2 hours/ week): **140** credits can be allocated in the first 4 semesters

if the student did not take part in teaching activities: $140-16=124$ credits can be allocated in the first 4 semesters

Semester 5:

Research activities:	20 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 24

Semester 6:

Research activities:	20 credits
Research report:	3 credits
Teaching:	4 credits

Total number of credits: 27

Total number of credits for Semesters 5 and 6: 51 if the student took part in teaching activities

Semester 7:

Research activities:	20 credits
Teaching:	4 credits
Total number of credits:	24

Semester 8:

Research activities:	20 credits
Research report:	3 credits
Teaching:	4 credits
Total number of credits:	27

Total number of credits for Semesters 7 and 8: 51 if the student took part in teaching activities

Summary: total number of credits that can be acquired (compared to the minimum)

Semesters 1-4: if teaching actively: **140**>90 credits if not teaching: **124**>90 credits

Semesters 5-8: if teaching actively: **102** credits if not teaching: **102-16=86** credits

Semesters 1-8: if teaching actively: $140+102=242$ credits if not teaching: $122+86=214$ credits

The above listed numbers may be increased by the addition of credit points for publication activity (*min. 65 – max. 90 credits*), independent of a given semester.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Annual research work report

At the end of each academic year, students have to submit of a max. 1 page report that summarizes their progress in a given year. For the formal requirements of this summary see Appendix 1.

The summary must specify:

- Student's personal data (*e.g.*, John Smith, 2nd year full-time PhD student, Neptun ID, email address, name of PhD program, thesis supervisor and institute)
- the courses taken and completed by the student in a given school year, grades, number of credits
- teaching activities, number of hours and credits (title and code of the subject)
- most important findings of the research work
- oral presentations (event, location, date, title of presentation, certificate, *e.g.*, conference brochure)
- list of submitted, accepted and/ or published publications,

The thesis supervisor must certify by his/her signature that all the presented data are correct, whereas the director of the doctoral school must also indicate his/ her approval.

The thesis supervisor, the head and the secretariat of the Doctoral School have to receive a copy of the summary by 15th of September of a given year.

2. Language skills

1. All students are required to have at least a B2 level English language knowledge, according the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), which has to be proved by a certificate. The equivalence of language exams and exam certificates is governed by government decrees. If there is no decree to cover certain individual cases, the appraisal of the Department of Foreign Languages, University of Szeged, has to be asked for.

PhD students participating in teaching at the German Program for students of Medicine and/ or Dentistry may choose to meet the above mentioned requirement by presenting a German language certificate.

2. A lower level examination or its equivalent (CEFR level A2 or B1) is required in a second foreign language. Alternatively, a certificate issued by the Department of Foreign Languages, University of Szeged, is acceptable for this purpose.

3. In the case of foreign citizens whose mother tongue is not Hungarian, their knowledge of that given language entitles them to meet one of the language requirements if it fulfils the regulations of the doctoral school. Hungarian is considered to be a foreign language for such students.

3. Requirements of the complex examination for full-time students in the 2+2-year program

The complex exam is conducted in front of a committee of min. three members, min. one of whom is not employed by the University of Szeged.

1. The chair of the examination committee is a professor or prof. emeritus of the University of Szeged (SZTE).
2. Another member of the committee must be a scientifically qualified researcher of SZTE, and the third member, not employed by SZTE, must also be scientifically qualified.

The Doctoral School will announce 1-2 dates for the complex examination. Ideally, the examinations are scheduled to take place in the second part of May or the first part of June, so that they will be completed before the entrance exam of the new full-time students.

The complex examination at the end of Semester 4 consists of two main parts: (50-50%)

a) theoretical part (equivalent to the previous final examination): can be re-taken once in the same exam period. The two subjects for the theoretical part of the complex examination can be selected from the list compulsory courses of the PhD program.

b) dissertation part: the candidate is required to give an account of a progress in his/her chosen field of research, as well as his/ her research plans for the next 2 years.

Recommendations for the complex examination:

- The PhD student should either prepare a Power Point presentation, or a 1.5-2-page long report that has to be enclosed with the written record of the exam

- An assessment of the student shall be prepared in writing before the complex examination by the supervisor. This one-page assessment should be sent to the committee members before the examination.

- The student shall prepare a written dissertation report before the exam, which should be sent to the committee members before the examination.

- The candidate's supervisor cannot be a member of the exam committee, however, he or she may be present during the dissertation part of the exam.

Regulations concerning the written record of the complex examination: Government Decree 87/2015 (IV.9.) on the Implementation of certain provisions of Act CCIV of 2011:

(4) 110 The written record of the complex examination shall contain:

a. the name and institutional ID of the higher education institution

- b. the name, student ID, previous qualification(s) and degree(s) of the candidate
- c. the name and faculty ID of the thesis supervisor
- d. the discipline and the disciplinary area of the doctoral degree
- e. the subjects of the theoretical part, questions asked and evaluation of the responses
- f. the result of the complex examination
- g. the name, faculty ID and signature of the chair and other members of the examination committee

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION:

The dissertation has to be written and submitted in English. The length of the dissertation including figures, graphs, tables and references may not exceed 50 pages. The dissertation has to be printed (character type Time 12, line spacing at 1.5, type-area 16 x 23) and bound before submission.

The front page must include the title of the dissertation, the “PhD thesis” or “Doctoral thesis” designation, the author’s name and the year of submission.

The inner title page must include the title of the dissertation, the names of the author, supervisor and co-supervisor (if appropriate), the place and the date of the dissertation and the name of the Doctoral School. The next page shall include a list of scientific papers that cover the same topic as the dissertation. The items of the list shall be numbered by using Roman numerals. The structure of the dissertation shall correspond to the professional requirements of scientific publications. The individual sections (Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, References) of the dissertation shall be proportionate. The system of citations shall correspond to the citation system commonly used in the given field.

A summary of the dissertation has to be enclosed with the thesis, both in English and Hungarian.

The copies of all the candidate’s relevant publications (already published or accepted for publication) have to be included in the Appendix.

The dissertation has to be submitted in 5 copies together with a 10-15-page thesis booklet (summary of the dissertation), which has to be written both in Hungarian and in English and submitted in 15 copies in both languages. Every candidate has to send an electronic version (pdf format) of the entire dissertation and the Hungarian and English thesis booklet to the Doctoral School.

Every candidate has to upload the entire dissertation together with the thesis booklet on the *SZTE Doktori Repozitórium* operated by Library Klebelsberg while, at the same time, submitting them to the Dean’s Office. The evaluation of the dissertation may not start before the dissertation has been submitted and uploaded.

When the defence of the thesis is announced, the relevant Faculty or Doctoral School or PhD Secretariat uploads the names of the thesis defence board members into the Repository. The names of the thesis defence board members shall be displayed on the invitation for public disputation.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Regulations governing Doctoral Training programmes at the University of Szeged (26 June, 2017)

MANAGING CREDIT POINTS IN THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

1. During the doctoral training all learning outcomes shall be measured in credits (study credit points). Credits shall be granted for only those study activities that are graded on a 3-level or 5 level grading scale system.

2. During the 48-month-long training period – divided into 8 examination periods – a total of 240 credit points shall be earned to be eligible for a completion of studies certificate.

3. At least 20 and at most 45 credit points shall be collected during each examination period.

4. If a student participates in a partial study at a foreign or other Hungarian university, the relevant Doctoral School Council may grant exemption from the above-mentioned requirements. The credit point value of the courses that had been completed at a foreign or other Hungarian university shall be judged by the relevant Doctoral School Council.

5. With research work such as bibliography, library and archives research, follow-up on journal articles, conference participation – where the student presents a poster or holds a lecture – and publishing articles in journals a total of at least 130 credit points shall be achieved.

6. The credit point value of the theoretical course with two lessons per week (14 weeks/semester) shall be 3-6 points. The credit point value shall change in proportion with the change in the total number of lessons i.e. taking an intensive course with an external lecturer. At least 5 theoretical courses of 2 hours/week have to be completed by the students.

7. For the pre-degree certificate that states that all courses have been covered at least 15 credits points shall be achieved from the theoretical courses.

8. The credit point value of the weekly one lesson per week (for 14 weeks) practical session (seminar) shall be 1-2 credit points. With teaching activities 48 credit points shall be achieved at the most; 8 credit points per semester at the most. No credit points shall be granted for lessons that the PhD student is paid for.

9. Should the school set it as a requirement that, at certain intervals, during departmental or research group seminars, the PhD student shall give an account of his research activities then one such report may worth 3-5 credit points. It is recommended to require at least one such report (in the sixth examination period, for example). The Doctoral School Council shall determine the number of reports to be recognised with credit points.

10. PhD students may be granted credit points for journal articles and active conference participation with lectures and posters if they are published in the conference publications. The credit point value of the above-mentioned activities shall depend on the students' level of contribution to the achieved outcomes. With the consent of the relevant Disciplinary Doctoral Council (DDC) and Doctoral Council of the relevant Branch of Science, such credits shall be determined by the relevant Doctoral School Council.

Government decree Section 11 (2) For medical residents and medical in-house practitioners—who are participating in a particular training program to ensure the succession of academic tutors at medical higher education institutions—out of their completed core training modules and professional practice period, the relevant Credit Transfer Committee—in pursuant of the doctoral regulations—shall only permit the recognition of two semesters or sixty credit points.

11. With the consent of the relevant DDC, recognition of credit points – in pursuant of the Government Decree – shall be decided by the Doctoral School Council. Such recognition shall only be possible with PhD students in the organised training program.

12. The credit points recognised on the basis of the previous section shall be confirmed by the head of the Doctoral School, and the acquisition of the training credit points shall be confirmed by the lecturer of the theoretical course. The Doctoral School Council shall determine the credit points to be confirmed by the head of the training/research programme. The supervisor shall be responsible for the confirmation of the remainder of the credit points.

13. Countersigned by the Chair of the DDC, the completion of each study period shall be certified by the Dean for Research Affairs at the Faculty in the relevant branch of science.