



**Medieval Studies Department**  
**Doctoral Program**  
**Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Studies**

**Regulations (approved by UDC)**

Based on the CEU Doctoral Regulations

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## 1 Introduction<sup>1</sup>

Central European University's Medieval Studies Doctoral Program is accredited in the United States of America (1996), Hungary (2005), and Austria (2020). The US accreditation of the program, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Medieval Studies, is administered by the Department of Medieval Studies; the Hungarian accreditation of the program, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History, is in the framework of the Doctoral School of History (which brings together students admitted to the Medieval Studies Department and Department of History), and administered through the program-coordinator of the School and the Department of Medieval Studies; The Austrian accreditation of the program, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, is administered by the Department of Medieval Studies and accredited by the Board der Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria (AQ Austria).

The only mandatory doctoral degree an enrolled doctoral student must pursue is the US accredited doctoral degree. All the other degrees can be pursued if related requirements are fulfilled.

The Medieval Studies Department was founded in 1992 and was accredited in the US in 1994. The department founded the oldest doctoral program at Central European University in 1996 and has exerted exceptional educational influence across Central and Eastern Europe by successfully training academic staff now employed in many higher education and cultural institutions. The Doctoral School of History, accredited in Hungary, was born from the association of two doctoral programs accredited by the New York Board of Regents, US, namely, the aforementioned Medieval Studies Doctoral Program (1996) and the Doctoral Program in History (1997, administered by CEU's Department of History). An extended version of both programs was successfully accredited in Hungary in 2005 and comprises:

- Comparative History (associated with the History Department);
- Interdisciplinary Medieval, Byzantine and Late Antique Studies (associated with the Medieval Studies Department).

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<sup>1</sup> These regulations comply with the CEU Doctoral Regulations as approved by the Senate, 4 February 2021. As a result, they also comply with the requirements for Doctoral Schools accredited in Hungary, as well as the requirements of the Austrian accreditation.

As of 2020, the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program has been accredited by the Board der Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria (AQ Austria).

**The following regulations pertain solely to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.** These regulations are strictly complementary to current CEU Doctoral Regulations. None of the information provided there is repeated in these regulations unless some program-specific definition is required. In cases of doubt, the central CEU regulations and policies will prevail. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with all relevant CEU regulations.

**Relevant CEU documents include:**

1. CEU Doctoral Regulations
2. CEU Student Rights, Rules, and Academic Regulations;
3. CEU Code of Ethics;
4. CEU Guidelines on Handling Cases of Plagiarism
5. CEU Admissions Policy and Procedure;
6. CEU Rules of Nostrification.

## **2 Definitions**

For the purpose of these regulations, it is understood that:

- The **Medieval Studies Doctoral Program** refers to the doctoral program offered by the Medieval Studies Department of Central European University.
- A **doctoral student** is a student enrolled in the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.  
Doctoral students can choose between a) US doctoral degree alone; b) US doctoral degree with HU doctoral degree; c) US doctoral degree with AT doctoral degree; d) US doctoral degree with HU and AT doctoral degrees. Each of the doctoral degree requirements differ. These differences will be highlighted throughout these regulations. HU doctoral degree is not on offer for doctoral students admitted after 2020/21.  
Those doctoral students still receiving Hungarian State funded scholarships are expected to choose the Hungarian doctoral degree option.
- Initially, a doctoral student has the status of **probationary doctoral candidate (according to the US accreditation requirements)**.
- Probationary doctoral candidates will obtain the status of **doctoral candidate** after having successfully completed the necessary requirements.

- Only doctoral students pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree, will obtain the status of **doctoral nominees** after having started the doctoral procedure (“*doktori eljárás*”). This requirement is only applicable to doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016.
- The **University Doctoral Committee** (hereafter referred to as UDC) is a standing committee of the CEU Senate.
- The **Committee of the Doctoral School of History** is a committee composed of selected members of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program Committee (Medieval Studies Department), the Comparative History Doctoral Program Committee (History Department), and chaired by the head of the Doctoral School of History.
- The **director of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program** (hereafter referred to as **program director**) is appointed by the head of the Medieval Studies Department in consultation with faculty members of the Medieval Studies Department and s/he chairs the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program Committee.
- The **Medieval Studies Doctoral Program Committee** (hereafter referred to as **Doctoral Committee**) is a standing committee of the Medieval Studies Department monitoring the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program. It comprises five faculty members and one invited student representative. It is responsible for steering the program and, among other things, defining the subjects of the comprehensive examinations.

### 3 Eligibility and admission

A doctoral student seeking admission to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program must meet the general CEU application requirements for doctoral programs as specified in the CEU Admissions Policy and Procedure and published on the university website ([www.ceu.edu](http://www.ceu.edu)).

Each accepted doctoral student is required by the CEU Doctoral Regulations to sign the following statement concerning their enrollment:

'Statement of Responsibility

Hereby I state that I am presently not and will not be in the future either enrolled part time or full time, funded or not funded, regardless of the level or subject matter, in another higher education institution while studying at CEU as an enrolled regular student, with or without financial assistance. I understand that acting contrary to this statement of responsibility may result in immediate expulsion from CEU.'

Additionally, the following regulations and requirements are published and regularly updated on the departmental website: <https://medievalstudies.ceu.edu>.

### **3.1 Admissions procedure**

#### ***3.1.1 Admissions Committee***

The Medieval Studies Doctoral Admissions Committee oversees and conducts the admission process to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program. Toward the end of each fall semester, the Medieval Studies Department will appoint this committee, which usually consists of the departmental admissions officer, the head of the Medieval Studies Department, and the program director.

#### ***3.1.2 Admissions schedule***

The Medieval Studies Doctoral Admissions Committee, inviting comments from all faculty members of the Medieval Studies Department, will arrive at a merit list by a date defined by the CEU Admission Office. Applicants will be placed in one of four categories:

1. unconditional offer of a CEU doctoral fellowship;
2. conditional offer of a CEU doctoral fellowship – depending on the successful completion of a Master's degree or its equivalent;
3. placement on waiting list;
4. rejection of application.

Applicants shall be informed in writing of their placement by the CEU Admission Office and NOT by the Medieval Studies Department.

### **3.2 Admissions requirements**

#### ***3.2.1 Previous degrees***

Applicants are expected to hold a Master's degree or its equivalent in any field of multidisciplinary medieval studies. Applicants who have doubts whether their (prospective) degree conforms with these criteria are advised to consult the department prior to application.

#### ***3.2.2 Language requirements***

In addition to having a good working knowledge of academic English, applicants may be required to prove they have sufficient command, – for the purposes of the proposed dissertation project, – of at least one ancient, medieval or early modern source language (e.g., Arabic, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Old Church Slavonic, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, etc.) by the time of application. It is at the discretion of the Admission Committee whether to assign such tests during the application period. Command of a source language may be replaced by demonstration of different skills for an art history or archaeology dissertation project.

A minimum knowledge of Latin is required for the doctoral degree (more information under [section 4.3.3](#)). Such knowledge can also be obtained during the course of the doctoral studies up to the time of the pre-defense, based on the decision of the Admission Committee.

### **3.2.3 *Application materials***

In addition to the application materials required by CEU, applicants to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program shall submit (typed and in English language)

1. a summary of their Master's thesis of no more than 1,000 words evidencing, if possible and/or necessary, the interdisciplinary character of the previous studies of the late antique, medieval or early modern periods;
2. a detailed dissertation proposal of no more than 3,000 words (excluding bibliography);
3. a dissertation outline and timeline of no more than 1,000 words.

## **3.3 Financial Aid**

Those accepted to a CEU doctoral program with a CEU scholarship are automatically considered for a full doctoral fellowship lasting altogether 36 months. In cases of doubt, the central CEU policies on financial aid will prevail.

## **3.4 Special options for admission**

### **3.4.1 *Individual study plan***

The Admissions Committee, in close consultation with the Chair of the UDC, is willing to consider applications to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program under an individualized study plan. A doctoral student accepted under this scheme is enrolled with the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program but will, in addition to coursework and supervision in the framework of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program, receive credits from one or more institutions of higher education other than CEU. It is the doctoral student's duty to make these arrangements with other higher education institutions – whether as a visiting student or similarly, – prior to or simultaneously with their application to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.

A doctoral student following an individual study plan is not eligible to receive a monthly stipend or regular financial benefits from CEU such as health insurance coverage. With special permission from the Chair of the UDC, however, s/he may participate in CEU's competitive graduate research funding schemes.

For the application to be considered, all admission deadlines and criteria specified above have to be met and all requested application materials supplied. Additionally, the applicant must submit an

organizational outline indicating what they think the advantages and benefits would be of the individual study plan. The organizational outline must also be accompanied by a list of institutions from which the applicant intends to obtain credits and under which arrangement. A detailed provisional schedule for the first year of doctoral studies should also be provided. A maximum of six credits per academic year from outside CEU can be acknowledged by the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.

A doctoral student enrolled under the individual study plan scheme is expected to take and pass all examinations as required by the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.

Individual study plans are prepared by the doctoral student and approved annually by the supervisor(s), head of department, and the Chair of the UDC. The study plans must be updated each year. In particular, the updated study plans should contain the schedule of the subsequent academic year and the expected number of credits earned outside CEU must be specified.

Those doctoral students choosing this program can only pursue a doctoral degree accredited in the US.

### **3.4.2 *Cotutelle***

The Admissions Committee is willing to consider applications to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program under cotutelle, i.e., a scheme under which the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program and a foreign – non-Hungarian and non-US – doctoral school/institution of higher education (hereafter referred to as partner institution) provide jointly and in mutual cooperation supervision to, and resources for, the doctoral student.

For the application to be considered all admission deadlines and criteria specified above have to be met and all application materials requested supplied. Additionally, the applicant must submit an organizational outline indicating what they think the advantages and benefits would be of the cotutelle. If possible, the application must be accompanied by a confirmation from the intended partner institution indicating its willingness to enroll the student under cotutelle. If any action on the part of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program is necessary for the applicant to obtain such a confirmation, s/he should indicate this to the chairperson of the Admissions Committee in writing during the application process. The applicant is solely responsible for being admitted to a doctoral program in the partner institution prior to or at the same time as s/he is admitted to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.

The terms and conditions of such a cotutelle (academic, supervisorial, financial, etc.) covering all major issues related to the CEU Doctoral Regulations should be harmonized with the terms and regulations of the partner institution and should be documented in writing. Preliminary negotiations

will be conducted by the Medieval Studies Doctoral Committee with the partner institution. The provisional agreement will be submitted to the Chair of the UDC for official approval and ratification. This agreement can allow for certain exceptions regarding, e.g., the language in which the dissertation is to be written, the composition of the Dissertation Defense Committee, examination procedures, course work, or similar issues. It is usually expected that the doctoral student will take the comprehensive examination (or its equivalent) at both institutions. In cases where the dissertation is written in a language other than English it must be accompanied by a summary in English (10,000 words minimum).

The dissertation will be defended in a joint procedure (with a minimum of two examiners appointed by CEU), depending on the guidelines and regulations of both CEU and the partner institution. Upon successful defense of the dissertation, the doctoral student will receive one doctoral degree.

In exceptional cases, cotutelle may evolve from specific circumstances when a doctoral student is already enrolled with the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program. In these cases, the doctoral student may make a formal request for cotutelle in writing to the Doctoral Committee. The committee will decide within one month whether to open negotiations with the partner institution. A negative decision is final and cannot be appealed. Any agreement resulting from these negotiations must be submitted to the Chair of the UDC for official approval and ratification.

## **4 Student status, rights, responsibilities, and awards**

### **4.1 Degree type declaration**

By the end of the Probationary Doctoral Student period, doctoral students will have to indicate in writing on the relevant form (Status Clarification form) what type of doctoral degree they intend to pursue.

### **4.2 Probationary doctoral candidacy period**

Students admitted to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program keep their probationary doctoral candidate status until they have fulfilled all the requirements necessary to obtain doctoral candidate status. Probationary doctoral candidate status is envisaged as lasting for one (1) academic year but may last for a maximum of two (2) academic years. At the end of the second year, any probationary doctoral candidate, having failed to successfully transfer to doctoral candidate status, will be ex-matriculated unless a case for personal hardship can be made and this case is accepted by the Doctoral Committee.

The requirements of transfer from probationary doctoral candidate to doctoral candidate status consist of the successful

1. completion of course work, as a condition for being allowed to take the comprehensive examination and defend the dissertation prospectus;
2. passing the comprehensive examination;
3. defense of a dissertation prospectus;
4. publishing a 500-word abstract of the emerging dissertation on the CEU profile;
5. acquisition of, or proof of, sufficient command of source and secondary languages necessary to conduct research on their topic as stated by the supervisor(s) in the minutes of the dissertation prospectus

Probationary doctoral candidates who have successfully completed all requirements will be automatically promoted to doctoral candidate status.

#### ***4.2.1 Coursework***

Probationary doctoral candidates must successfully complete twenty (20) credits of coursework achieving an average GPA of at least 3.5. Students failing to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.5 cannot be promoted to doctoral candidate status. Of these credits

1. four (4) credits must come from active participation in the Doctoral Seminar (Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium – for grade);
2. three (3) credits must come from active participation in the Advanced Research Methodology courses
3. a minimum of thirteen (13) credits must come from active participation in PhD level mandatory elective topical courses (including advanced source language courses and independent study). Alternatively, a maximum of four (4) credits per term can come from pertinent courses at Master’s level with the supervisor’s permission.

If an individual student still feels that a particular intermediate level language course is critical for the fulfillment of their PhD dissertation, then the department will require the supervisor(s) to write a short letter of request to the Doctoral Committee explaining why, via an e-mail sent to the doctoral coordinator.

##### ***4.2.1.1 Doctoral Seminar – Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium***

The Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium is convened weekly during term time and provides a forum of academic exchange between all doctoral students and faculty teaching in the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program. In particular, it provides a forum for academic debate of key historical

issues connected to the cohort's intellectual interests as well as offering feedback on the various tasks necessary to achieve transfer of status, especially discussion of the draft prospectus and comprehensive/complex exam topics.

Doctoral students must attend this course when in residence. They are expected to support the probationary doctoral students and share their insights gained over their first year of doctoral studies. They are encouraged to present their work in the form of progress reports, research papers, conference papers, or chapter presentations. **When the schedule of the individual presentations is elaborated, both the probationary doctoral students and the doctoral candidates should consult their supervisor(s) and chose a time slot when the supervisor(s) are available.**

#### *4.2.1.2 Advanced research methodology courses*

This type of course intends to foster academic research methods and writing skills that will enable doctoral students to participate fully in scholarly life and discourse as professionals. The courses are designed as a venue for individual students to develop a strong dissertation prospectus that includes a clear statement of dissertation topics, research questions, a well-thought-out description of methodology, a consideration of potential primary and secondary sources, and a carefully prepared bibliography. All aspects of historical analysis are intimately interconnected. It is intended that the writing will focus on the framework of the prospectus. The work produced for this course should be an integral part of the prospectus and, ultimately, of the dissertation. These courses also serve as an introduction to professional activities such as writing and presenting conference papers. The standards and requirements of all assignments will reflect the goal of communicating one's research and intellectual work to the international scholarly community in high quality English prose.

#### *4.2.1.3 PhD level mandatory elective topical courses*

Each semester the Medieval Studies Department offers a suitable range of PhD level mandatory elective topical courses and PhD level elective courses specifically tailored to the needs of doctoral students. These seminars put emphasis on advanced research methodology, recent research trends in various respective fields of multidisciplinary medieval studies, or a combination of these with practical skills, e.g., through discussions of recent seminal publications in a certain sub-field of multidisciplinary medieval studies.

Four (4) credits must come from participation in PhD level mandatory elective topical courses. The list of these available on the departmental homepage at the beginning of each registration period.

#### 4.2.1.4 *Academic practica*

Over the course of the doctoral candidacy period, a doctoral student will select four (4) academic practica supervised by resident faculty. Each practicum will be worth one (1) credit.

The goal of an academic practicum is to provide insights into professional and practical skills that cannot be acquired from course work, but will be useful for the doctoral student's future academic career, such as conference/workshop organization or participation in a research project, etc. Types of practica which have been offered include:

1. Academic program organization;
2. Course materials development and teaching practice;
3. Departmental archive and library development;
4. International relations network co-ordination;
5. Publication and editorial practices;
6. Research resources and bibliography;
7. Visual resources: collection and implementation.

The workload of an academic practicum must not greatly exceed 24 hours (that is, two hours per week over the twelve weeks of the semester, or five hours per day over one week of the research break). Doctoral candidates will rotate their choices and may only repeat any type of practicum once. All four academic practica should be completed *before* the submission of the dissertation for pre-defense and documented with the relevant form.

Merely clerical or language editing tasks should not be part of an academic practicum.

#### 4.2.1.5 *Independent study*

This type of course may be pursued any time during the doctoral studies. The independent study units are designed to guide the doctoral students, under appropriate supervision, through the initial stages of writing their prospectuses/dissertations. This type of course will also give doctoral students time to pursue the sources and secondary literature necessary to write a state-of-the-art prospectus and/or dissertation while receiving regular feedback from the mentor of the independent study unit. Any one independent study unit may award a maximum of four (4) credits.

It is the responsibility of the doctoral student to submit a detailed proposed outline of the independent study unit to the mentor, i.e., usually the principal or associate supervisor, and the independent study form to the Doctoral Coordinator **by the end of the registration period for each term**. Requests submitted past this deadline may have to be accommodated in a later semester.

## ***4.2.2 Comprehensive examination***

The comprehensive examination is a public exam held before the doctoral candidate's Comprehensive Examination Committee. It requires that probationary doctoral candidates present and defend their final, and non-annotated bibliography for two substantial topical and/or methodological fields of interdisciplinary medieval/historical studies which may be relevant to, yet sufficiently distant from, the proposed dissertation topic.

### ***4.2.2.1 Comprehensive examination schedule***

The comprehensive examination is scheduled to occur just after the end of the Winter term. The precise dates are usually announced one month before the exams. Preparation for the comprehensive examination starts at the beginning of the first year of doctoral studies and proceeds as follows:

- By the end of October, probationary doctoral candidates, following close consultations with their supervisor(s), will propose three suitable field survey topics for examination to the Doctoral Committee using the *Comprehensive Examination Planning Form*. Two of the topics will be selected by this committee for further elaboration.

As a guideline, no bibliographical item can be shared between a probationary doctoral candidate's dissertation prospectus and the topical field surveys. The probationary doctoral candidate will be notified within two weeks of whether the Doctoral Committee accepts the topics or requests revisions within one week. Once the topics are approved by the Doctoral Committee the probationary doctoral candidate is expected to expand them. The final, non-annotated versions of both topical field surveys are due and should be saved on the CEU e-learning site at the end of the Winter term.

*Final, annotated versions of both topical field surveys are due and should be saved on the CEU e-learning site two weeks before the actual date of the complex examination **at the end of the second year of doctoral studies.***

The probationary doctoral candidate will supply all members of the Comprehensive Examination Committee with the final, non-annotated syllabi/bibliographies to be justified no less than fourteen days before the comprehensive examination.

Probationary doctoral candidates should indicate their preferences regarding the composition of the Comprehensive Examination Committee by the end of the Winter term.

#### 4.2.2.2 *Final topical field surveys format*

The surveys can either take the format of

1. *a bibliography with* a minimum of twenty-five items, of which more than half must be monographs, chapters of monographs, or edited volumes/special journal issues in their entirety. These should be structured to reflect important debates within the field. For any item included in the list, the probationary doctoral candidate is expected to indicate why it was selected;

or a

2. *a draft of a twelve-week syllabus with an extended bibliography.* In this case, the probationary doctoral candidate will be expected to briefly indicate the objective of each session, and the ways in which the suggested readings will facilitate this outcome; a minimum of two readings (equaling bibliographical items above) should be assigned to each session, of which no fewer than half must be monographs or edited volumes/special journal issues in their entirety.

***Nota bene:*** If choosing to submit a syllabus with bibliography, which the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program encourages, the doctoral student is advised to take advantage of the various valuable offers regarding teaching technique and syllabus construction by CEU's Center for Teaching and Learning. Doctoral students are also advised to draw critically from the syllabi available from faculty teaching in the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program.

#### 4.2.2.3 *Comprehensive Examination Committee*

The Comprehensive Examination Committee usually consists of three resident faculty members (supervisor and associate supervisor may be included). The Comprehensive Examination Committee is appointed in consultation with the doctoral candidate who may request a change in the committee composition in a formal letter addressed to the Doctoral Committee.

It is expected that the supervisor(s) will comment in detail on the draft versions toward the end of the Winter term in the Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium or otherwise arrange a meeting with or send their comments to the probationary doctoral candidate individually.

#### 4.2.2.4 *Comprehensive examination procedures*

The comprehensive examination is a public exam where doctoral students justify the not yet annotated topical syllabi/bibliographies. It is conducted on the basis of the submitted not yet annotated syllabi/bibliographies and follows the regulated procedure.

1. Having submitted a-not-yet annotated bibliography, the probationary doctoral candidate will be asked to introduce each topic in a five-minute statement. Students should be prepared to justify their choice of topic and bibliographical entries during a 10 – 20-minute question and answer session with the committee members and the public.
2. If the probationary doctoral candidate has submitted a draft syllabus it will be introduced in a five-minute statement meant to explain the rationale behind the course design and level (undergraduate or graduate) as well as expected learning outcomes for the envisaged participants in the class. Students should be prepared to justify their choice of topic and bibliographical entries during a 10 – 20-minute question and answer session with the committee members and the public.

#### 4.2.2.5 *Evaluation of the comprehensive examination*

The probationary doctoral candidate's performance will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee will evaluate the not yet annotated syllabi/bibliographies as follows:

1. the degree to which the bibliography reflects recent and earlier major debates in the field in a balanced manner;
2. the quality and depth of the probationary doctoral candidate's summary five-minute introductions to each bibliography;
3. the degree to which the probationary doctoral candidate proved capable of answering questions pertaining to the wider historical contexts, based on the bibliography in its entirety and major items consciously omitted from it;

Where a syllabus was presented, the Comprehensive Examination Committee will evaluate:

1. the degree to which the syllabus succeeds in introducing the students of the targeted level to the chosen field while reflecting recent and earlier major debates in this field in a balanced manner;
2. the degree to which the brief objective summary of the assigned readings does justice to the weekly topic;
3. the quality and depth of the probationary doctoral candidate's summary five-minute introduction to each syllabus;
4. the degree to which the probationary doctoral candidate proved capable of answering questions pertaining to the wider historical context, based on the syllabus in its entirety and major items consciously omitted from it;

#### *4.2.2.6 Postponing and retaking the comprehensive examination*

A probationary doctoral candidate will not normally be allowed to postpone the comprehensive examination. However, where there are compelling personal reasons, a request may be submitted to the Doctoral Committee to postpone the comprehensive examination. In this case, the examination will usually be held during the beginning of the following academic year.

The comprehensive examination may be retaken only once and before the Spring term of the second year of doctoral studies. Students wishing to retake the comprehensive examination should signal their intention to the Doctoral Committee. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination on the second occasion will result in immediate ex-matriculation.

#### *4.2.3 Dissertation prospectus defense*

The dissertation prospectus defense is a public exam held before the probationary doctoral candidate's Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee. It requires the probationary doctoral candidate to present the list of questions to be explored with a tentative outline and the research bibliography.

##### *4.2.3.1 Dissertation prospectus defense schedule*

Dissertation prospectus defenses are scheduled at the beginning of June. The precise date is announced one month before the exams. The final dissertation prospectus must be submitted one month before the day of the dissertation prospectus defense to allow sufficient time for external and internal examiners to evaluate the prospectus.

External readers will be approached following discussions between the doctoral student and supervisor(s). The name(s) and affiliation(s) should be submitted to the doctoral coordinator who will issue a formal letter of invitation.

The external reader(s) will usually not be present on this occasion but should be requested to submit their comments in writing at least one week prior to the scheduled dissertation prospectus defense.

##### *4.2.3.2 Dissertation prospectus format*

The dissertation prospectus must contain the following elements:

1. a description and justification of the proposed topic;
2. a review of the relevant scholarship;
3. a specific, detailed, and annotated list of the primary sources to be studied and interpreted;
4. a set of questions to be explored or working hypotheses to be tested plus a detailed account of the theories and methodologies to be applied. The account must demonstrate how these

theories are connected to the topic as well as show how methodologies are connected to the data being explored;

5. a tentative outline of the doctoral dissertation;
6. an exhaustive research bibliography specifying literature that has been, or will be, consulted.

While the length of the prospectus may vary; a maximum of 8,000 words of text plus five to eight pages of bibliography will usually do justice to the task.

#### *4.2.3.3 Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee*

The Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee consists of the chair and two resident faculty members (the supervisor(s) may be among them), and one or two external readers, who may or may not be present.

The Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee is appointed in consultation with the doctoral candidate who may request a change in the committee composition in a formal letter addressed to the Doctoral Committee.

#### *4.2.3.4 Dissertation prospectus defense procedures*

The defense begins with a short oral presentation (around ten minutes) by the probationary doctoral candidate, followed by questions of committee members concerning the quality of the proposed dissertation project, its feasibility, and the probationary doctoral candidate's ability to complete it over the period granted by CEU. The following should be considered: research skills, familiarity with scholarly issues in the context of the dissertation, etc.

#### *4.2.3.5 Dissertation prospectus evaluation*

The probationary doctoral candidate's performance will be evaluated as a pass/fail.

The Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee will evaluate the prospectus defense as follows:

1. The quality of the presentation. It is to the student's advantage if they do not read their presentation but speak freely;
2. How well the student responds to questions;
3. How aware the student is of what sources are relevant, available and accessible;
4. How well the student connects their data to the theoretical construct(s) they intend to employ;
5. How well do their methodologies link the data to the theory.
6. How well the student argues the feasibility of the topic for the research and writing time available;

Probationary doctoral candidates may be asked to rewrite their prospectuses and/or acquire some necessary skills before being admitted to doctoral candidate status. The Dissertation Prospectus Defense Committee will set a deadline by which the revisions need to be re-submitted for approval by the committee chair.

The committee may also determine that the dissertation prospectus defense needs to be repeated on the basis of this revised prospectus. In this case, the committee will set a deadline by which these revisions must be re-submitted. The Doctoral Committee will schedule a new prospectus defense, preferably no later than the Fall term following the unsuccessful prospectus defense.

#### *4.2.3.6 Postponing and re-taking the dissertation prospectus defense*

A probationary doctoral candidate will not normally be allowed to postpone the dissertation prospectus defense. However, where there are compelling personal reasons, a request may be submitted to the Doctoral Committee to postpone the prospectus defense. In this case, the defense will usually be held during the pre-session of the subsequent academic year or the beginning of Fall term.

The dissertation prospectus defense may only be repeated once. Failure to defend the prospectus on this second occasion may result in immediate ex-matriculation.

### **4.3 Doctoral candidacy period (research period)**

#### *4.3.1 General requirements*

Doctoral students are expected to meet the following obligations:

1. to actively participate in the academic life of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program, for example, regularly attending events organized by the department such as lectures, programs, and workshops as well as contributing to Medieval Radio, etc.;
2. to initiate discussions with the supervisor(s) on the type of guidance and comments considered helpful, and to agree to a schedule of meetings which will ensure regular contact;
3. to provide (following the second year of the doctoral studies) a written report to the Doctoral Committee and the supervisor toward the end of each academic year (before July 15), documenting the progress of the work/research as agreed with the supervisor; this report needs to be accompanied by a piece of work of chapter length in order to receive confirmation of status;
4. to present their work in the Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium in the form of progress reports, research papers, conference papers, or chapter presentations.

They are also expected

5. to submit chapters of the dissertation for discussion and feedback according to the schedule agreed upon with the supervisor;
6. to ensure that original data and any other original research results are stored properly and made available;
7. to fulfill all other obligations prescribed by these regulations.

#### *4.3.1.1 Required course credits for those pursuing only the US doctoral degree:*

##### Applicable to those doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016

In order to receive a US doctoral degree, doctoral students must collect a minimum of 72 ECTS credits (a minimum of 40 ECTS credits must be collected during the probationary candidacy period, 4 ECTS credits will be granted for the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, 4 ECTS credits will be granted for the successful defense of the dissertation prospectus, and the remaining 24 ECTS credits must be collected during the doctoral candidacy period).

##### Applicable to those doctoral students enrolled after 1 September 2016

In order to receive a US doctoral degree, doctoral students must collect a minimum of 108 ECTS credits (a minimum of 40 ECTS credits must be collected during the probationary candidacy period, 10 ECTS credits will be granted for the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, 10 ECTS credits will be granted for the successful defense of the dissertation prospectus, 24 ECTS credits will be granted for the successful completion of the complex examination, and the remaining 24 ECTS credits must be collected during the doctoral candidacy period).

#### *4.3.1.2 Required course credits for those pursuing the Hungarian doctoral degree:*

##### Applicable to those doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016

In order to receive a Hungarian doctoral degree doctoral students must collect a minimum of 180 ECTS credits (a minimum of 40 ECTS credits must be collected during the probationary candidacy period, and the remaining 140 ECTS credits must be collected during the doctoral candidacy period) in the following three categories: educational activity; teaching activity; academic activity.

##### Applicable to those doctoral students enrolled after 1 September 2016

In order to receive a Hungarian doctoral degree doctoral students must collect a minimum of 240 ECTS credits (a minimum of 40 ECTS credits must be collected during the probationary candidacy period, and the remaining 200 ECTS credits must be collected during the doctoral candidacy period) in the following three categories: educational activity; teaching activity; academic activity.

#### *4.3.1.3 Required course credits for those pursuing the Austrian doctoral degree:*

##### Applicable to those doctoral students enrolled after 1 September 2020

In order to receive an Austrian doctoral degree doctoral students must collect a minimum of 240 ECTS credits (a minimum of 60 ECTS credits must be collected during the probationary candidacy period, and the remaining 180 ECTS credits must be collected during the doctoral candidacy period) in the following three categories: educational activity; teaching activity; academic activity.

#### ***4.3.2 Complex examination***

The complex examination is a public exam held before the doctoral candidate's Complex Examination Committee. Doctoral candidates must pass the exam at the end of their second year of studies. To become eligible for taking the complex examination, doctoral candidates must collect a minimum of seventy-six (ECTS 76) credits and achieve an average GPA of at least 3.5.

- First year course credits: 40 ECTS should be collected
- Mandatory examinations: 10 ECTS credits for successfully passing the comprehensive examination, 10 ECTS credits for successfully defending the dissertation prospectus,
- Second year course credits: 16 ECTS should be collected as follows:  
8 ECTS credits for active participation in the Doctoral Seminar/Colloquium, 8 ECTS credits for attending PhD level mandatory elective topical courses.

##### *4.3.2.1 Complex examination schedule and re-take*

The complex examination will take place in May with one re-take option in the same academic year in June. Failure to pass the complex examination on this second occasion may result in immediate ex-matriculation from the doctoral degree program.

##### *4.3.2.2 Complex examination format and procedure*

The complex examination consists of two parts and follows the regulated procedure.

#### 1) General knowledge examination

The general knowledge examination within the field of Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies based on a pre-set bibliography already justified during the comprehensive examination takes place during the first part of the examination. The doctoral candidates compile the pre-set bibliography in consultation with their supervisor(s) and the Doctoral Committee will approve it at the end of the first year of enrollment. The pre-set annotated bibliographies will focus on two broad topics – a theme for a potential monograph or a one-term seminar –

within the field of Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies other than the doctoral student's dissertation topic. These topics may fall into two categories: a) a chronological focus on some significant aspect(s) of the Middle Ages; b) a geographic focus on a specific, larger region of the medieval world.

## 2) Dissertation prospectus development and research presentation

The dissertation prospectus development and research presentation begin with a short oral presentation (around ten minutes) by the doctoral candidate, followed by questions concerning the development and growth of the dissertation project. The doctoral candidates should be prepared to discuss the dissertation project's continued feasibility, their acquired research skills, and their familiarity with the most recent scholarly debates within the context of the evolving dissertation. Doctoral candidates are also requested to present a research schedule demonstrating that they will be able to finish the dissertation within the required time frame for their chosen degree program.

### 4.3.2.3 *Complex Examination Committee*

The Complex Examination Committee has at least three members. All members must have a doctoral degree. The supervisor(s) of the doctoral candidate cannot be member(s) of the Complex Examination Committee. At least one-third of the Complex Examination Committee should be external to CEU. For those doctoral students pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree, the chair of the Complex Examination Committee must be an '*egyetemi tanár*', a Professor Emerita/us, a habilitated '*egyetemi docens*', or a professor/researcher possessing the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (DSc). For those doctoral students pursuing a US and/or AT doctoral degree, the chair of the Complex Examination Committee will be the external member of the committee. Members are appointed in consultation with the doctoral candidate who may request a change in the committee composition in a formal letter addressed to the Doctoral Committee. The Complex Examination Committee is appointed by the UDC based on the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee.

### 4.3.2.4 *Evaluation of the complex examination*

The two sections of the complex examination are evaluated separately but the student will receive only one final grade. The outcome of the complex examination is announced immediately after the examination. The complex examination is not connected to the final evaluation of the doctoral dissertation.

The Complex Examination Committee will evaluate the examination of the general knowledge examination section as follows:

1. How well the annotated bibliography reflects recent and earlier major debates in the field in a balanced manner;
2. How well the annotations do justice to the summarized items;
3. The quality and depth of the probationary doctoral candidate's summary five-minute introductions to each bibliography;
4. How well the probationary doctoral candidate answered questions pertaining to the wider historical contexts, based on the bibliography in its entirety and major items consciously omitted from it;
5. How well the probationary doctoral candidate answered questions on specific items in the bibliography;
6. How well the probationary doctoral candidate structured their arguments and recognized methodological problems, etc.

Where a syllabus was presented, the Complex Examination Committee will evaluate:

1. How well the syllabus introduces the students of the targeted level to the chosen field while reflecting major recent and earlier debates in this field in a balanced manner;
2. How well the brief objective and summary of the assigned readings does justice to the weekly topic;
3. The quality and depth of each probationary doctoral candidate's summary five-minute introduction to the syllabus;
4. How well the probationary doctoral candidate answered questions pertaining to the wider historical context, based on the syllabus in its entirety and major items consciously omitted from it;
5. How well the probationary doctoral candidate answered questions on specific assigned readings in the syllabus, the structure of their arguments and their recognition of methodological problems, etc.
6. Altogether, the didactic aspects of the syllabus must not account for more than 25 % of the grade.

The Complex Examination Committee will evaluate the dissertation prospectus development and research presentation section on the basis of:

1. the description and justification of the dissertation prospectus development,
2. the review of the most recent relevant scholarship,
3. the review of any newly acquired research skills,
4. the review of the research schedule.

### **4.3.3 Language skills**

#### *4.3.3.1 Source language examination*

Doctoral students must pass an exam comprising written translation of a not previously seen text in the selected source language. The text should be comparable to the ‘Level One Toronto Medieval Latin Proficiency Test’ (i.e., four paragraphs of different types of texts to be translated within 180 minutes without using a dictionary). Students may re-take this examination twice. Failure to pass the test on the third occasion may result in immediate ex-matriculation.

Doctoral students who have acquired sufficient knowledge of a source language at an institution other than CEU, as documented by an academic transcript, or have gained language proficiency through work on their dissertation (i.e., a critical edition or analysis of medieval source language texts), may be exempted from the examination at the discretion of the Doctoral Committee.

A doctoral student interested in taking the official ‘Toronto Latin test’ will be given one opportunity to do so with the fee paid and the test administered by the Medieval Studies Department. Eligibility for this test will be confirmed by the faculty member teaching the preparatory courses for the ‘Toronto Latin test’ in consultation with the doctoral student’s supervisor(s).

#### *4.3.3.2 Modern language requirements: only for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree*

Doctoral students pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree must produce evidence of an appropriate command of two languages other than their mother tongue (“foreign languages”). Where the documents proving the fulfillment of this requirement fall into the category of documents ‘equivalent’ to the Hungarian state administered language certificates (as detailed below) the doctoral student must submit documentation or information demonstrating the equivalence and are strongly encouraged to produce appropriate documentation as early as possible in their doctoral studies. Doctoral students are responsible for providing the required documentation by the time of the pre-defense.

Students whose mother tongue is English must produce evidence of appropriate command of the first foreign language upon opting for the Hungarian doctoral degree.

### 1. First foreign language

The first of these languages must be one of the following: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Modern Greek, Old Church Slavonic, Old Greek, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Syriac, Turkish, Ukrainian, Yiddish. Evidence of sufficient command of this language can be shown in one of the following ways:

1. English is recognized without further evidence in the case of all non-native speakers of English accepted in a CEU doctoral program.
2. Hungarian state administered language certificate (or the equivalent), type 'B2, intermediate' ("középfokú") level or higher.
3. Completion of secondary education in a foreign language.
4. Degree in an accredited higher education institution in a foreign language.

### 2. Second foreign language

Evidence of sufficient command of a second foreign language, to be chosen from any of the languages indicated above, can be shown in one of the following ways:

1. Hungarian State administered language certificate (or equivalent), type 'B1', 'beginner' ("alapfokú") level or higher.
2. Evidence of successful completion of a foreign language course in a secondary or higher education institution.
3. Degree in a foreign language in an accredited institution of higher education.

#### **4.3.4 Annual confirmation of doctoral candidate status**

Once doctoral candidate status is obtained, it is the duty of the doctoral student to confirm this status toward the end of each year of enrollment by demonstrating proper progress of the doctoral dissertation project. This regulation pertains to the whole period of enrollment and is not limited to the period when the doctoral student receives a stipend from CEU.

It is the responsibility of each doctoral student to monitor their enrollment status. **CEU automatically charges a yearly enrollment fee for each doctoral student unless a change of status form is officially submitted to the Registry Office.**

Any fees occurring from failure to report change of status will be the responsibility of the student to pay.

The doctoral candidate demonstrates progress

1. by submitting a detailed annual progress report of the doctoral activities during the past academic year with a forecast of the next, starting from the end of the second year of enrollment. A form will be provided on the departmental website.
2. At least from their third (3) year of enrollment doctoral candidates, together with their annual progress report must also submit a chapter including footnotes and bibliography. A copy of this chapter should be submitted to the supervisor(s) and the doctoral coordinator. **Failure to submit this chapter will result in immediate reevaluation of the student's candidate status.**
3. The deadline for submitting the annual progress report and chapter is 15 July of each academic year.

Supervisors should submit their written reports on the students' progress report by 31 July of each academic year. Grades will be entered into the university information system based on these supervisory reports.

The annual progress reports will be evaluated by the doctoral candidate's supervisor(s). If major problems arise with the work of a doctoral student, the supervisor(s) should notify the Doctoral Committee. In such cases, the Doctoral Committee will meet to discuss what actions need to be taken. They may write a follow-up letter with suggestions for improvement. This letter should be signed by both the principal supervisor and the student. Failure to comply with recommendation of the Doctoral Committee may result in immediate ex-matriculation.

#### ***4.3.5 Educational, teaching, and academic activities***

Credits can be earned as enrolled CEU students or as visiting or non-degree student at another recognized university or institution of higher education. For credit transfer rules consult CEU's Transfer of credit policy (Annex 2 to the Student Rights, Rules, and Academic Regulations).

**For those pursuing the American and Austrian doctoral degrees, all credits should be earned within a maximum of six (6) years.**

**For those pursuing the Hungarian doctoral degree, all credits should be earned within a maximum of four (4) years.**

##### *4.3.5.1 Educational activity: Mandatory credits*

1. Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium;
2. PhD level mandatory elective topical courses;
3. advanced research methodology courses
4. dissertation prospectus defense

5. comprehensive examination
6. complex examination
7. academic practica
8. mandatory teaching practice [AT and HUNG]
9. dissertation research and annual progress reports [AT and HUNG]
10. consultation with the supervisor(s) [AT and HUNG]
11. publications [AT and HUNG].

#### 4.3.5.2 *Educational activity: Optional credits*

1. Any number of credits can be collected from PhD level elective topical courses.
2. participation in conferences [AT and HUNG]
3. participation in research projects [AT and HUNG]
4. independent teaching practice
5. independent study

Those who cannot earn certain optional credits should make sure to earn enough credits by participating in more PhD level elective topical courses or independent study units.

#### 4.3.5.3 *Teaching activity*

##### For the Austrian and Hungarian doctoral degree: mandatory

Doctoral students pursuing the Austrian and/or Hungarian doctoral degree(s) must acquire a minimum of 10 or 8 ECTS credits respectively for completing their teaching practice exclusively at CEU as Teaching Assistants in agreement with the Doctoral Committee. They are encouraged to acquire further experience for additional credits either under the auspices of the Medieval Studies Department or at another recognized higher education institution in agreement with the Doctoral Committee. It will be at the discretion of the Doctoral Committee to assess the credit value of the course taught in higher education institutions other than CEU.

In order to receive credit for the teaching assistantship, doctoral candidates will have to submit the “Request for the acknowledgment of credit(s) granted for teaching practice” form as well as its mandatory attachments (course syllabus, bibliography, certificate that the course appeared in the university’s course offering, course evaluation of the course if the institution provides it).

Teaching Assistants who conduct their teaching assistantship at CEU will receive course evaluations.

Although teaching experience is not required for the US-accredited doctoral degree, it is highly recommended in view of academic career options.

Doctoral Candidates at the Medieval Studies Department can engage in the Teaching Assistantship in two ways:

- 1) As a non-paid, mandatory teaching practice (TAship at CEU)
- 2) As a paid or non-paid, optional independent teaching practice (at CEU or another university).

At CEU – depending on the financial resources available for the department in the respective academic year – the following paid independent teaching practice options are available:

- 1) Technical assistant
- 2) Course assistant
- 3) Doctoral student tutor

The procedure to become a teaching assistant.

Doctoral Candidates who intend to garner teaching practice in a given academic year, should indicate their interest in doing so to the Doctoral Coordinator **by 31 May** of the previous academic year. The Departmental Curriculum Committee, based on the list of doctoral students, will match interested faculty members with students desiring to take part in a teaching assistantship, prior to the start of the academic year.

It is the doctoral candidates' responsibility to explore with their supervisor(s) the possibility of acting as a Teaching Assistant at BA or Master level courses during the second or third year of doctoral studies (following successful transfer of status).

The Doctoral Committee in consultation with the course instructor(s), will award credits based on the following:

1. Teaching Assistants will take active part in drafting the syllabus with due assistance from the course instructor, reflecting on the learning outcomes in particular, and providing their share of the reading assignments;
2. during the class, Teaching Assistants will be present and run a minimum of four (4) one-hundred-minute classes at their own discretion, with the course instructor present and providing feedback.

The joint preparation and teaching of such a class will count in fulfillment of the mandatory requirement.

Teaching completed prior to entering the doctoral program cannot be counted for credit.

#### 4.3.5.4 Academic Activities

##### *Publications*

###### For the Austrian and Hungarian doctoral degrees only: mandatory

Doctoral students should place an acknowledgment to the Department (Central European University Private University, Doctoral Program in Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Studies) in any articles or books published while they are enrolled.

Doctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree accredited in Austria and/or Hungary should submit at least three (3) scholarly publications and can acquire a minimum of 20 and 24 ECTS credits respectively. Scholarly publications dated prior to entering the doctoral program cannot be counted for credit. In order to receive such credits doctoral students are required to submit those publications they wish considered for credit in both hard copy and electronic versions to the Doctoral Committee which will, in consultation with the supervisor(s), award credits as follows:

1. for an article published in a journal of local, regional or national circulation: 4-12 ECTS credits;
2. for an article in an on-line peer-reviewed journal or academic blog 8-12 ECTS credits;
3. for an article published in a peer-reviewed journal of international circulation: 8-12 ECTS credits;
4. for a seminal article of the latter kind: up to 16 ECTS credits. Any monographs (including source editions) will be reviewed individually; those written in languages with regional circulation will normally carry a minimum of 12 ECTS credits;
5. for those written in an acknowledged language of international academic exchange carry a minimum of 12 ECTS credits.

The exact number of credits awarded is at the discretion of the Doctoral Committee. Credits granted for publications should be reconfirmed by the Head of the Doctoral School of History only for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree.

##### *Conference paper presentation and/or participation*

###### For the Austrian and Hungarian doctoral degrees: optional

Doctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree accredited in Austria and/or Hungary should acquire maximum 12 ECTS credits from conference participation. To receive these credits, any paper presented by the doctoral student that is to be considered for credit must be submitted in an electronic version to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Committee. In consultation with the supervisor(s), the credits will be awarded as follows:

1. for a paper presented at a regional conference: 4 ECTS credits;
2. for a paper presented at an international conference: 6 ECTS credits;
3. for an invited paper presented at an international conference: 8 ECTS credits.

The exact number of credits awarded is at the discretion of the Doctoral Committee. Credits granted for publications should be reconfirmed by the Head of the Doctoral School of History only for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree.

#### *Participation in research projects*

##### For the Austrian and Hungarian doctoral degrees: optional

Doctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree accredited in Hungary may acquire maximum 12 ECTS credits for participation in research projects. To receive such credits, a report of the project's objective and the doctoral student's tasks, duties, and results should be submitted to the Doctoral Committee which will, in consultation with the supervisor(s), award credits.

The exact number of credits awarded is at the discretion of the Doctoral Committee. Credits granted for publications should be reconfirmed by the Head of the Doctoral School of History only for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree.

#### **4.3.6 Doctoral Awards**

##### *4.3.6.1 CEU Academic Achievement Award for First-year Doctoral Students*

These awards are meant to reward outstanding coursework and performance during the comprehensive examination. Selection criteria:

1. GPA of at least 3.8 or the highest placements in the department
2. Outstanding performance at the prospectus defense and comprehensive examination
3. Quality of publications (if any)
4. Conference presentations (if any)
5. Performance as a TA (if any)
6. Activity in the departmental life

##### *4.3.6.2 Award for Advanced Doctoral Students*

These awards reward outstanding student research. Students who had been awarded the CEU Academic Achievement Award for First-Year Doctoral Students can also be nominated.

Selection criteria:

1. Completion of a significant portion of research that serves as the basis of the dissertation and scholarly presentation of tangible results that directly stem from the research (a draft chapter, a paper)

2. Quality of publications (for instance, an important journal publication or an award)
3. Number of publications
4. Conference presentations
5. Performance as a TA (evaluations?)
6. Experience of teaching own course
7. GPA of at least 3.5 or the highest placements in the department
8. Outstanding performance at the complex examination
9. Activity in the departmental life

#### 4.3.6.3 *Best Dissertation Award*

These awards, given annually, are intended to recognize important scholarly contributions by graduate students. Dissertations from any discipline that are based on significant original research, raise thought-provoking questions in the field, and open up new perspectives are recognized through this award. The Doctoral Committee especially wants to reward imaginative research that takes an innovative approach in terms of the sources, the methodology and/or the research questions. Nominations of works that take a broadly understood comparative perspective and use an interdisciplinary approach are especially encouraged as well as those contributing to the understanding and practice of social justice.

Eligibility: doctoral dissertations that were defended during the preceding two years and received a grade cum laude or higher are eligible for nomination. Students awarded the Award for Advanced Doctoral Students can also be nominated.

Selection criteria:

1. Summa Cum Laude distinction (granted to dissertations that contribute significantly to the field)
2. Subject with broad social or historical implications
3. Original, innovative with methodological sophistication.
4. Time to degree (finished within the six-year time limit, maximum two-year leave of absence period excluded)

#### 4.3.6.4 *Departmental nomination process*

To make the nomination process as transparent as possible, the Doctoral Committee will create the merit list on the basis of the above listed criteria. The final decision is based on discussions between all members of the Medieval Studies Department faculty.

## **5 Supervision and supervisory committees**

### **5.1 Probationary doctoral candidacy period**

#### ***5.1.1 Appointment of the principal and associate supervisors, and examination committee members***

Upon admission to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program probationary doctoral candidates will be assigned supervisor(s) based on the application materials.

Following due consultation with the probationary doctoral candidate, the Comprehensive Examination and Prospectus Defense Committees are appointed, preferably by the end of the Winter term.

#### ***5.1.2 Duties of the supervisor(s),***

1. to encourage probationary doctoral candidates to play a full and active role in the intellectual life of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program;
2. to give regular guidance and prompt feedback about the nature of research and standards expected during the probationary period;
3. to help identify suitable topical fields to be covered by the comprehensive examination, and give guidance toward the production of the two topical field surveys required;
4. to give detailed advice and guidance toward the timely production of the dissertation prospectus;
5. to advise probationary doctoral candidates on any presentations due in the departmental doctoral seminars during the probationary period, if requested, and attend any such presentations;
6. to help identify suitable members of the Prospectus Defense, and Comprehensive Examination Committees;
7. to help identify suitable mentors for the independent study units, and enquire about their availability;
8. to assist in planning and organizing academic activities as pertaining to the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program, especially in teaching experience.

### **5.2 Doctoral candidacy period**

#### ***5.2.1 Confirmation of the principal supervisor and the associate supervisor***

No later than one month after a probationary doctoral candidate was transferred to doctoral candidate status, the Doctoral Committee, in consultation with both the doctoral student and the

supervisor(s) shall submit the name of the (principal) supervisor of the student to the UDC for approval. Where it can be reasonably assumed that the complexity of the emerging dissertation requires it, or if the supervisor should be absent for a substantial amount of time or become temporarily unavailable, the Doctoral Committee may suggest the appointment of an associate supervisor. The associate supervisor may be an expert in the field external to CEU. Please note that within the Hungarian accredited Doctoral Program any supervisor who fails to fulfill the Hungarian publication requirements can only continue as an associate supervisor. A new, eligible supervisor will be appointed by the Doctoral Committee.

### ***5.2.2 Appointment of the examination committee members***

Following due consultation with the doctoral candidate, the Complex Examination Committees are appointed, preferably by the end of the Winter term.

### ***5.2.3 Responsibilities of the supervisor, the associate supervisor,***

As a rule, each doctoral student should arrange regular consultations with the supervisor(s).

It is the mutual responsibility of the supervisor(s) and the doctoral students to maintain regular contact at all times. It is also the responsibility of the supervisor(s):

1. to encourage the doctoral student to play a full and active role in the intellectual life of the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program;
2. to give guidance about the nature of research and standards expected, about the choice of research topic, about the planning of the research program, and about literature and resources;
3. to establish a specific research schedule in written form;
4. to establish a timetable for frequent regular personal meetings with the student;
5. to give detailed advice in order to ensure that the research project and dissertation writing are completed within scheduled time;
6. to request regularly pieces of written work and/or research results and return such work with constructive criticism within reasonable time, informing the doctoral student about the satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress of their work;
7. to attend the Medieval Studies Doctoral Colloquium when their supervisees are presenting their ‘work-in-progress reports’;
8. to help identify suitable mentors for the independent study units, and enquire about their availability;
9. to help the doctoral student present their work at conferences and prepare it for publications;
10. to advise and assist the student in finding a suitable host university for study/research abroad under the Doctoral Research Support Grant scheme;

11. to give advice how to enter the academic job-market and to prepare for an academic career;
12. to fulfill any other duties set out by the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program regulations and guidelines.

## **6 Dissertation submission, Rigorosum, pre-defense, and doctoral defense**

### **6.1 Starting the Doctoral Procedure (only applicable to those doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016)**

For the Hungarian doctoral degree only: mandatory

Doctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree accredited in Hungary must initiate a Doctoral Procedure (*'doktori eljárás indítás iránti kérelem'*) During this procedure doctoral students are termed 'Doctoral Nominees' (*"doktorjelölt"*). On initiating a doctoral procedure, the following statement must be signed:

“Currently I have no other doctoral procedure in the same discipline in progress. I did not initiate any doctoral procedure that was rejected during the last two years.

The dissertation must be submitted within two years of the acceptance of the application for a doctoral procedure by the UDC.

### **6.2 Starting the Doctoral Procedure (only applicable to doctoral students enrolled after 1 September 2016)**

For the Hungarian doctoral degree only: mandatory

Doctoral candidates pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree are required to submit their dissertations within three (3) years of passing the Complex Examination. In justified cases, this deadline may be extended by one (1) year. Student status may be suspended for a maximum of two semesters during the second part of the Doctoral Training.

### **6.3 Rigorosum (only applicable to doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016)**

For the Hungarian doctoral degree only: mandatory

The purpose of the Rigorosum (*'doktori szigorlat'*), which is an oral examination, is to ensure that doctoral nominees command a thorough knowledge of the field in which the dissertation is to be submitted. Three topics, one main subject and two additional subjects, should be suggested by the doctoral nominee in advance to the departmental Doctoral Committee to be approved by the UDC. The Rigorosum normally takes place together with the pre-defense but, in any case, before the defense itself.

### ***6.3.1 Rigorosum Committee***

The Rigorosum Committee is responsible for conducting the Rigorosum. The Rigorosum is part of the Doctoral Procedure required for earning a Hungarian doctoral degree. The Rigorosum Committee is appointed by the UDC based on the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee. The Rigorosum Committee has at least three members, all of them answering the criteria for core membership in a doctoral school. If the Rigorosum Committee consists of fewer than five members, a maximum of one may be external to CEU. The chair of the Rigorosum Committee must be an ‘*egyetemi tanár*’ or a habilitated ‘*egyetemi docens*’. The Rigorosum Committee evaluates both the viability of the doctoral student’s research, and the skills and background knowledge necessary for the completion of the dissertation.

### ***6.3.2 Rigorosum procedure***

The Rigorosum usually lasts up to a maximum of one hour and has its own procedure. The result of the Rigorosum must be announced immediately after the Rigorosum.

### ***6.3.3 Evaluation of the Rigorosum***

The decision on accepting the Rigorosum is based on the majority voting principle. If the members of the Rigorosum Committee cannot reach a majority decision, the Medieval Studies Doctoral Committee shall appoint two or three additional Rigorosum Committee members within 15 days. The enlarged committee must feature an uneven number of members. The Rigorosum will then be repeated within sixty days of the original Rigorosum and the enlarged Rigorosum Committee shall decide whether to accept the Rigorosum by simple majority of the members.

### ***6.3.4 Re-taking the Rigorosum***

The Rigorosum may be retaken only once (within the original time limit of two years); failure to pass the second Rigorosum may result in the immediate ex-matriculation of the doctoral nominee.

## **6.4 Dissertation submission**

**The maximum length of a doctoral dissertation at the Medieval Studies Department is 100,200 words, not including figures, bibliography, and appendices.** In addition to the requirements listed in the CEU Doctoral Regulations, the Medieval Studies Doctoral Program requires the title page of the final version of the dissertation to reference Central European University, Budapest; the Medieval Studies Department; additionally, in the case of a dissertation defended also according to Hungarian accreditation, the Doctoral School of History.

The final version of the dissertation must be approved by the supervisor(s) before submission. It only then can be submitted to the Doctoral Committee through the Doctoral Coordinator. Following a successful defense, the dissertation must be uploaded to the Electronic Theses Database of CEU.

All doctoral students must submit a dissertation booklet, summarizing the major findings of the dissertation.

Those doctoral students who are pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree must submit an electronic version of the dissertation to the electronic database of *Magyar Tudományos Művek Tára* as well. For this a DOI identification No. will be provided in line with international practice.

#### **6.4.1 Submission beyond the enrollment period (only applicable to students pursuing a HU doctoral degree)**

Doctoral students whose enrollment (including possible extensions) runs out and who have fulfilled all requirements for the doctoral degree with the exception of submitting their dissertation, can apply for re-enrollment at a later date in order to submit their dissertation.

When former doctoral students wish to re-enroll for submitting a dissertation, they need to send the completed dissertation to the Doctoral Committee. The program director will approach, in the first instance, the former supervisor(s) to evaluate the quality of the dissertation. If the latter is/are unavailable or unwilling to do so, the program director shall see whether academic staff members whose expertise is reasonably close to the dissertation topic are willing to take on this task. In the last instance, it rests with the Doctoral Committee– in consultation with any qualified academic staff member willing to evaluate the dissertation – to decide whether the former student can re-enroll and the dissertation be officially submitted.

If the decision is positive, the student can re-enroll for the purpose of submitting a dissertation after paying the special re-enrollment fee that applies in these cases. From the point of re-enrollment, the usual rules for dissertations apply.

#### **6.5 Dissertation pre-defense**

The Medieval Studies Doctoral Program strongly recommends that a ‘pre-defense’ be held once the dissertation is complete and approved by the supervisor. Doctoral students should submit their dissertation to the Doctoral Coordinator at least one month prior to the proposed date of the pre-defense. During the pre-defense, the dissertation will be discussed the same way as during a doctoral defense. The purpose is to give the doctoral student a last round of valuable, constructive criticism and feedback s/he needs to incorporate in the dissertation. The advance preparations for the pre-defense should be carried out by the principal supervisor who will also check whether the GPA of the

doctoral student reaches the minimum required 3.3 average. In cases where the GPA falls below the required level, but the expectation is that the dissertation will be of high quality, the Doctoral Committee must consult with the UDC.

#### ***6.5.1 Pre-defense Committee***

The supervisor(s) jointly with the doctoral student should carefully review the composition of the Pre-defense Committee to ensure that examining members will be able to give the maximum insight into any remaining problems with the dissertation.

The Pre-defense Committee comprises the supervisor and two other faculty members along with three in-house readers appointed by the supervisor (doctoral student, alumni, or junior faculty) and one officially invited external reader.

#### ***6.5.2 Pre-defense procedures***

The pre-defense is regulated by its own separate procedures. The pre-defense is public; there is no time limit on the length of the proceedings.

#### ***6.5.3 Evaluation of the pre-defense***

The Pre-defense Committee may evaluate the dissertation as follows:

1. The dissertation is accepted for defense in its present state and the doctoral defense procedure may be initiated immediately.
2. The doctoral student is requested to introduce minor modifications to the dissertation, which then have to be approved by the supervisor(s) before initiating the doctoral defense procedure. Once the dissertation is in its final form, the supervisor(s) will be given one month to approve or reject the changes and initiate the doctoral defense procedure.
3. The doctoral student is requested to introduce major modifications to the dissertation. In this case, the dissertation should be re-submitted once these modifications have been carried out.
4. The dissertation is not accepted for examination and has to be re-written/-structured in substantial parts. After the doctoral student resubmits the modified dissertation the supervisor(s) together with the Doctoral Committee will decide whether to accept the dissertation for doctoral defense or recommend awarding an MPhil degree if all other requirements for the doctoral degree have been met.

#### ***6.5.4 Waiving the pre-defense***

The pre-defense constitutes a right, not an obligation. Doctoral students may therefore request that their pre-defenses be waived in a formal letter addressed to the Doctoral Committee.

## **6.6 Dissertation defense**

The dissertation will be examined by members of the Dissertation Defense Committee in an oral defense open to the public.

The responsibilities of the doctoral student are as follows:

1. to initiate the defense procedure using the appropriate form (for the Hungarian doctoral degree only);
2. to submit the dissertation at least one month before the proposed date of defense;
3. to prepare a dissertation booklet summarizing the content of the dissertation, listing members of the Dissertation Defense Committee, and including a short CV at the end at least two weeks before the defense;
4. to ensure that original data and any other original research results are stored properly and made available where necessary;
5. to fulfill any other obligations prescribed by the relevant CEU regulations and guidelines;
6. to submit proof of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> language requirements (for the Hungarian doctoral degree only).

### ***6.6.1 Dissertation Defense Committee***

The Dissertation Defense Committee comprises the chair (a faculty member from outside the department), the supervisor(s), and invited faculty members of whom at least one third should be external to CEU. The Dissertation Defense Committee is appointed in consultation with the doctoral candidate who may request a change in the committee composition in a formal letter addressed to the Doctoral Committee. The external reader(s) actually present at the doctoral defense may be part of the voting Dissertation Defense Committee as external member(s).

Under US accreditation, principal and associate supervisors may be voting members of the Dissertation Defense Committee. Under Hungarian accreditation, supervisor(s) cannot vote.

### ***6.6.2 Dissertation defense procedure***

The dissertation defense is regulated by its own special procedures. It usually lasts around two hours.

### ***6.6.3 Evaluation of the doctoral defense***

To satisfy degree requirements, the dissertation must make a significant and original contribution to the understanding of the subject and must demonstrate the capacity of the doctoral student to carry out independent, original research of high quality.

Each member of the Dissertation Defense Committee is requested to indicate whether

1. the dissertation makes a significant original contribution to and significantly advances the understanding of the subject with which it deals;
2. the dissertation demonstrates that the doctoral student is capable of carrying out independent research in accordance with internationally accepted standards, firmly and convincingly based on previous research carried out in the field;
3. the format and literary presentation follows academic norms within the particular field;
4. the dissertation or parts thereof are worthy of publication.

The assessment of at least two external readers, presented in written form, will also contribute to the overall evaluation process.

#### ***6.6.4 Acceptance of the doctoral dissertation***

The Dissertation Defense Committee decides with a majority vote on the acceptance of the dissertation defense and the grading of the dissertation.

The Dissertation Defense Committee may decide in the following ways:

1. That the doctoral student be awarded the degree without further modification in the dissertation;
2. That the doctoral student be awarded the degree subject to modifications in the dissertation. In this case, the Dissertation Defense Committee must nominate one or two of its members to approve of the changes in writing within three months of resubmission (without a new defense being organized);
3. That the doctoral student is not awarded the degree.

If the Dissertation Defense Committee cannot reach a majority decision, the Doctoral Committee shall appoint, within fifteen (15) days or as soon as the UDC's approval can be obtained, one or two examiners, who will be given the customary three months (within term time) to submit their written reports including the suggestion of a grade. The enlarged Dissertation Defense Committee shall decide on the acceptance, without conducting another oral defense. However, it is not necessary that members of the Dissertation Defense Committee meet in person.

If the Dissertation Defense Committee accepts the dissertation, it awards one of the following grades to the doctoral dissertation (from lowest to highest), again by majority decision:

1. rite;
2. cum laude;
3. magna cum laude;
4. summa cum laude.

The Medieval Studies Department does not organize Awarding Public Lectures.

### ***6.6.5 Post-doctoral defense requirements***

An electronic version of the dissertation shall be uploaded to the CEU electronic thesis database (ETD) prior to the defense. If the final version of the dissertation is not identical with this document following possible modifications suggested during the defense, the final version should be uploaded to the ETD as soon as possible. All dissertations in the ETD are available on the web through the CEU library catalogue,

Graduates of doctoral programs are also under a duty of publication to the Austrian National Library in accordance with Section 86 (1) of the University Organization and Studies Act (Universities Act 2002) of Austria. Successfully defended doctoral dissertations must be lodged with the Austrian National Library.

### ***6.6.6 Additional doctoral defense procedure for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree***

#### ***6.6.6.1 Additional Documentation***

**Prior** to the initiation of the doctoral defense the doctoral student needs to submit the following documents to the doctoral coordinator:

1. Documentation proving that the doctoral nominee has fulfilled the foreign language requirements (see Section 4.2.5)
2. Copies of at least three (3) scholarly publications (including articles accepted for publication) in a recognized international or national journal, or in a book published by a recognized international or national publisher. Copies submitted earlier (i.e. as documentation related to the request for additional HUN-credit) may be counted, although the doctoral student needs to declare in writing which of these publications were selected.
3. A statement declaring that the doctoral student is not enrolled in any other Doctoral Program in Historical Studies; that no request for opening the defense has been rejected within the last two years; and that no defense procedure has concluded with failure in the past two years.

**Following** the submission of the doctoral dissertation for defense the doctoral student needs to submit the following documents to the doctoral coordinator:

1. The dissertation booklet summarizing the major findings of the scientific research.
2. The following authorship declaration(s):  
A) I, the undersigned (name), candidate for the PhD degree in Medieval Studies declare herewith that the present doctoral dissertation is exclusively my own work, based on my research and relies only on such external information as properly credited in notes and bibliography. I declare that no unidentified and illegitimate use was made of the work of

others, and no part of the doctoral thesis infringes on any person's or institution's copyright. I also declare that no part of the doctoral dissertation has been submitted in this form to any other institution of higher education for an academic degree.

Applicable only for those enrolled before 1 September 2016

B) I, the undersigned (name), doctoral nominee for the PhD degree in Medieval Studies declare herewith that the present doctoral dissertation is exclusively my own work, based on my research and relies only on such external information as properly credited in notes and bibliography. I declare that no unidentified and illegitimate use was made of the work of others, and no part of the doctoral dissertation infringes on any person's or institution's copyright. I also declare that no part of the doctoral thesis has been submitted in this form to any other institution of higher education for an academic degree.

3. Written reply to the written reports of the external readers received prior to the defense.

**After** the successful defense of the dissertation an electronic version of the dissertation shall be provided to the electronic database of *Magyar Tudományos Művek Tára* (MTMT) by indicating a DOI identification number in line with international practices.

*6.6.6.2 Dissertation Defense Committee for those pursuing a Hungarian doctoral degree*

The Chair of the Dissertation Defense Committee must be an 'egyetemi tanár' or Professor Emeritus of CEU.

A minimum of two evaluations of the dissertation by a maximum of three examiners must be positive. The doctoral student answers in writing all external readers' comments prior to the doctoral defense.

The doctoral student may request that the defense be non-public. This request may or may not be accepted by the UDC.

*6.6.6.3 Granting distinction in the Hungarian system:*

The conditions for "kitüntetéses doktorrá avatás" (finishing the doctoral studies with distinction according to the Hungarian regulations) are as follows:

1. all mandatory courses are 'jeles', i.e. A and/or A-
2. the Rigorosum is summa cum laude
3. the defense grade is summa cum laude

## **7 Changes to these regulations and validity**

### **7.1 Changes to these regulations**

The Doctoral Committee may make changes to these regulations by simple majority vote; all changes need to be endorsed by the UDC.