

PÁZMÁNY PÉTER CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

**DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF
LINGUISTICS**

PROGRAMME PLAN



Budapest, 2026

EDHT 25/2026 (III. 17.)

Contents

PLAN OF INSTRUCTION	3
A. COURSE WORK	3
B. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION	5
FACULTY AND STAFF	9
COMPLEX EXAMINATION.....	9

PLAN OF INSTRUCTION

A. COURSE WORK

In each of the first two semesters at least four examination or seminar grades are to be collected, in addition to the consultation seminar grades. All the prescribed course credits are to be collected in the first four semesters.

Compulsory courses are printed bold below.

Four elective courses must be completed during Semesters 1-8. Of the elective courses, at least two must be completed during Semesters 1-4.

SEMESTER 1

<i>Applied track (in English); grade achieved through</i>	<i>Credits</i>
1. Academic English; seminar grade (Semester 1 or 2)	8
2. Introduction to applied linguistics; examination	8
3. Phonology; examination (Semester 1 or 2)	8
4. One of the compulsory electives A; seminar grade	8
5. Consultation; seminar grade	5

SEMESTER 2

1. Research skills 1; seminar grade	8
2. One of the compulsory electives A or B; examination (Semester 1 or 2)	8
3. Research methods 1; seminar grade	8
4. Syntax; examination (Semester 1 or 2)	8
5. Consultation; seminar grade	5

Compulsory electives A:
-- Introduction to language pedagogy
-- Psycholinguistics 1
-- Sociolinguistics 1
-- Pragmatics 1
-- Introduction to language technology
-- Corpus linguistics

Compulsory electives B:
-- Semantics
-- Morphology

SEMESTER 3

1. Research methods 2; seminar grade	8
2. Consultation; seminar grade	5

SEMESTER 4

1. Research skills 2, seminar grade	8
2. Consultation; seminar grade	5
Complex examination	0

Compulsory electives: In total, two compulsory electives must be taken, of which at least one must come from “Compulsory electives A”.

Elective courses (Semesters 1-8)

Elective courses are offered depending on the individual students’ research topics and needs. They earn 8 credits each, and can be either lecture courses or seminar courses. Four elective courses must be completed during Semesters 1-8. Of the elective courses, at least two must be completed during Semesters 1-4. The remaining two electives can be completed in any semester.

Overview of credits to be collected through coursework:

SEMESTERS 1-4:

All credits to collect through course work in Semesters 1-4:

Compulsory courses and compulsory electives:	80 credits
Two electives:	16 credits
Consultation in each semester:	20 credits
Altogether in Semesters 1-4:	116 credits

SEMESTERS 5-8:

Consultation in each semester:	20 credits
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SEMESTERS 1-8:

Two additional electives:	16 credits
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All credits to collect through course work: 152 credits

Consultation (supervision) credits

As a condition of obtaining credits for consultation in Semesters 2, 4, 6 and 8, students are required to hand in the following texts to their supervisor:

- Consultation credits in Semester 2: min. 5 pages long review of the student’s scholarly work in the first two semesters
- Consultation credits in Semester 4: min. 10 pages long review of the student’s scholarly work in the second two semesters and a statement of the progress made in the preparations for the dissertation
- Consultation credits in Semester 6: min. 15 pages long review of the student’s scholarly work in the third two semesters and a statement of the progress made in the preparations for the dissertation, or min. 15 pages of the dissertation draft

- Consultation credits in Semester 8: the dissertation manuscript submitted for the in-house defence, or else min. 20 (additional) pages of the dissertation draft.

B. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

The Doctoral School is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards of academic research and publication as detailed in the recommendations of the British Association for Applied Linguistics and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Credits are only assigned to academic publications and presentations that conform to these standards.

Lifting and plagiarism

Lifting is stretches of non-technical content words in your text taken from another text written by somebody else, without the indication with quotation marks that it comes from another source. This is not allowed in academic writing. It is considered plagiarism even if the sources are cited in-text and end-text. Plagiarism is unacceptable in applied linguistics in general and is penalised in this Doctoral School in particular.

Please, avoid lifting at all costs, not only in the courses of this Doctoral School and your dissertation but also in general in your academic life. Instead, use (1) direct quotation: quoting word-for-word from a source indicated by both quotation marks and citation data (author, year, page number, following the APA routine) – but use it sparingly, only for definitions. In every other case, use (2) summarising / paraphrasing to present an idea from a source (citation data are still to be indicated). Effective summarising / paraphrasing is a skill that needs to be practised so that you could become a successful writer of academic papers.

On the other hand, the use of other authors' texts under your name will have consequences in this Doctoral School: depending on its gravity, you may get a warning, a 'fail' grade for the task, a 'fail' grade for the course, and ultimately, you may even be expelled from the School (thus also losing your scholarship if you are on one). Repeated plagiarism will result in the graver penalties. Professors are expected to report every such incident to the Doctoral Board.

I. Academic publications

Credits will be confirmed only if your PPCU affiliation is indicated in the author data of your publication and presentation.

Irrespective of how you collect your research and publication credits, three academic papers are expected to be published (of which one may be a review).

1. Academic publications based on the doctoral student's own research (min. 26 credits):
Peer-reviewed book in the student's non-first language: 26 credits

Peer-reviewed book in the student's first language: 20 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international peer-reviewed periodical, 1: 16 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international peer-reviewed periodical, 2: 16 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international peer-reviewed periodical, 3: 16 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international peer-reviewed periodical, 4: 16 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 1: 12 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 2: 12 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 3: 12 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 4: 12 credits
Paper in the student's first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 1: 10 credits
Paper in the student's first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 2: 10 credits
Paper in the student's first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 3: 10 credits
Paper in the student's first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical or in a peer-reviewed book volume, 4: 10 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international academic conference proceedings, based on competitive anonymous abstract or paper selection, 1: 8 credits
Paper in the student's non-first language, in an international academic conference proceedings, based on competitive anonymous abstract or paper selection, 2: 8 credits
Paper in an academic conference proceedings, based on competitive anonymous abstract or paper selection, 1: 6 credits
Paper in an academic conference proceedings, based on competitive anonymous abstract or paper selection, 2: 6 credits
Short academic paper: 4 credits

2. Academic reviews:

Review of a book, published in an academic journal and written in the student's non-first language: 6 credits
Review of a book, published in an academic journal and written in the student's first language: 4 credits
Short academic review of a book: 3 credits

3. Editorial activity (max. 16 credits):

Editing a peer-reviewed publication in the student's non-first language: 9 credits

Editing a peer-reviewed publication in the student's first language: 7 credits

Editing a publication in the student's non-first language: 6 credits

Editing a publication in the student's first language: 4 credits

4. Academic publications based on the research of others (max. 10 credits)

Review article in the student's non-first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical: 7 credits

Review article in the student's first language, in a peer-reviewed periodical: 6 credits

Peer-reviewed encyclopedia entry, in the student's non-first language: 4 credits

Peer-reviewed encyclopedia entry, in the student's first language: 3 credits

5. Publications popularising linguistics (max. 8 credits):

Publication popularising linguistics, min. 10 pages: 4 credits

Publication popularising linguistics, 3 to 10 pages, 1: 3 credits

Publication popularising linguistics, 3 to 10 pages, 2: 3 credits

Publication popularising linguistics, shorter than 3 pages, 1: 2 credits

Publication popularising linguistics, shorter than 3 pages, 2: 2 credits

Excepting "Short academic paper" and "Short academic review of a book", the above number of credits in 1. and 2. are granted for a minimum of 10 pages per paper or review (2,000 characters per page).

For the purposes of the current Programme Plan, *international journal* and *international conference proceedings* are defined as an academic journal or academic conference proceedings volume whose authors (and, in the case of journals, whose editorial board) are varied in terms of country of academic affiliation.

To earn credits for a publication, the doctoral student is to inform the Doctoral Office in writing, including all the necessary bibliographic data, possible online access, and the supervisor's confirmation of acceptance for credit. In certain cases the credits can be granted prior to actual appearance of the published work, provided that editorial acceptance is duly confirmed. Publications must be uploaded into the student's MTMT.hu profile.

II. Academic presentations

1. Academic conference presentation based on the student's own dissertation-related research (min. 14 credits)

Conference talk in the student's non-first language, 1: 6 credits

Conference talk in the student's non-first language, 2: 6 credits

Conference talk in the student's non-first language, 3: 6 credits

Poster presentation in the student's non-first language: 3 credits

Conference talk in the student's first language, 1: 4 credits

Conference talk in the student's first language, 2: 4 credits
Conference talk in the student's first language, 3: 4 credits
Poster presentation in the student's first language: 2 credits

2. Talks popularising linguistics

Talk popularising linguistics 1: 2 credits
Talk popularising linguistics, 2: 2 credits
Talk popularising linguistics, 3: 2 credits

To earn credits for a conference presentation and popular talks, the doctoral student is to inform the Doctoral Office in writing, including all the necessary data (the event's name, venue, date, the title and type of the presentation: talk or poster) and the supervisor's signature.

3. Talks at the doctoral school's workshop conference

SEMESTERS 1-4 (min. 8 credits to collect)

Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 1: 4 credits
Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 2: 4 credits
Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 3: 4 credits

SEMESTERS 5-8 (min. 8 credits to collect)

Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 4: 4 credits
Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 5: 4 credits
Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 6: 4 credits
Talk at the workshop conference of the doctoral school 7: 4 credits

III. Other academic and popular linguistic activities (max. 12 credits)

Event (conference) organisation, academic or popular, 1: 4 credits
Event (conference) organisation, academic or popular, 2: 4 credits
Other academic activity (e.g. research assistance) or activity popularising linguistics, 1: 3 credits
Other academic activity (e.g. research assistance) or activity popularising linguistics, 2: 3 credits

The above activities are to be confirmed towards the Doctoral Office by the supervisor.

IV. Teaching/ teaching assistance (max. 24 credits)

Teaching a university course, 1: 8 credits
Teaching a university course, 2: 8 credits
Mentored preparation for the teaching of a university course, 1: 4 credits
Mentored preparation for the teaching of a university course, 2: 4 credits

Teaching assistance (organisation, support), 1: 4 credits

Teaching assistance (organisation, support), 2: 3 credits

Producing teaching material, 1: 4 credits

Producing teaching material, 2: 3 credits

This category grants credits for teaching activities at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. The above credits, with the exception of mentored preparation, can be obtained (with credible proof) for teaching activities at another university with the agreement of the supervisor. Completion of the activities is to be confirmed by the supervisor. A university course is understood here as a course consisting of at least an average of two (45 minute) classes per week for a semester.

Recommended mobility window: semesters 5-7.

All credits to collect in RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION: min. 88 credits

TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS TO COLLECT: 240 CREDITS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Head of the Doctoral School of Linguistics:

András Cser, cser.andras (at) btk.ppke.hu

Coordinator: Katalin Subicz, subicz.katalin (at) btk.ppke.hu

COMPLEX EXAMINATION

The complex examination is to be taken at the end of Semester 4. It consists of a theoretical part followed by a dissertation part, both orally. One re-take, limited to the theoretical part only, is allowed, which must take place in the same semester.

As part of the registration for the complex examination, the candidate is to submit via email to the Doctoral Office:

-- by March 31 (Spring semester)/by October 31 (Autumn semester): having negotiated them with the supervisor, the chosen examination subjects;
-- by the last day of the study period (around mid-May in the Spring semester/around mid-December in the Autumn semester): 1. his/her academic CV, 2. the Research plan about the second, research and dissertation writing, phase of his/her doctoral studies. The CV includes the candidate's documented academic achievements: the academic publications (published or accepted for publication), the academic presentations and other academic achievements. The Research plan, in cca. 5,000 words (10 pages), explains the significance of the research, states the research question(s), the initial hypotheses (if any), and outlines the academic background of the candidate's research for dissertation. The plan details the data to be analysed, the methods of data collection and of analysis, and the time schedule of the envisaged work leading to the completed dissertation. Expected results and possible applications are to be presented if relevant.

Subjects in the first part of the complex examination

In the theoretical part the candidate is examined in two subjects. One of them is chosen by the Linguistics Doctoral Board, based on the recommendation of the supervisor, from Subjects A in the list below. A second subject (A or B) is chosen by the candidate.

Subjects A:

1. Syntax
2. Morphology
3. Phonology
4. Semantics
5. Pragmatics
6. Psycholinguistics
7. Sociolinguistics
8. Language pedagogy

Subjects B:

1. Hungarian syntax OR English syntax
2. Hungarian phonology OR English phonology
3. Hungarian morphology OR English morphology
4. Phonetics
5. Historical linguistics

6. Academic discourse
7. Corpus linguistics
8. Computational linguistics
9. Lexicography
10. Bilingualism
11. First language acquisition
12. Second language acquisition
13. Discourse analysis
14. Prosody
15. Dialectology
16. Theory of translation

The second part of the complex examination

In the second part of the examination the candidate reports on his/her familiarity in the research field and the steps already taken. On the basis of the Research plan, s/he gives a 15 minute presentation about the plan and the schedule to follow in the second phase of his/her doctoral studies, with the help of some visual support (e.g., slides). The committee and the candidate discuss that plan, and the committee may suggest modifications and corrections.

The committee evaluates the text, the presentation and the discussion of the Research plan, and either accepts it (with or without suggested modifications) or rejects it if it is found an unsuitable starting point for the research and dissertation work in the following two years. The committee prepares a short written evaluation of the second part of the examination: if the Research plan is accepted, the committee may suggest modifications; if the Research plan is rejected, the committee explains the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION

General information for international students at Pázmány:

<https://btk.ppke.hu/en/contact-19>

How to use Eduroam, MS Teams, and the studies administration site 'Neptun':

<https://itk.ppke.hu/en/itservices>

How to use the faculty library: <https://btk.ppke.hu/library-4>

Webpage of the Doctoral School of Linguistics (DSL):

<https://btk.ppke.hu/nyelvtudomanyi-doktori-iskola>

Webpage of the Doctoral Office, including contact data (in Hungarian):

<https://btk.ppke.hu/doktori-es-habilitacios-iroda-3>

On the Applied Linguistics track within the DSL:

<https://btk.ppke.hu/nydi-for-prospective-students>

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): <https://publicationethics.org>

Ethical research recommendations of the British Association for Applied Linguistics:

https://www.baal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/goodpractice_stud.pdf (an abridged version)

<https://www.baal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/BAAL-Good-Practice-Guidelines-2021.pdf> (the full version)

Formatting, style, citation and referencing: APA 7th edition <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

Useful guidelines:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/index.html

Program Plan
Appendix 1

Learning outcomes

Based on the competency matrices associated with the course descriptions, the English-language program of the doctoral school of develops the following competencies from among the level descriptors corresponding to Level 8 of the MKKR:

Knowledge:

Possesses research-level knowledge of the scope of linguistics, including its general and subdisciplinary characteristics, major theoretical approaches, methodological boundaries, and both established and contested issues within the field.
Demonstrates a creative understanding of the theoretical relationships underlying linguistic research, including the conceptual frameworks, analytical models, and terminology that structure linguistic inquiry.
Possesses advanced methodological competence required for conducting independent research in linguistics, including contemporary research design, data collection, and analytical methods.
Is capable of the creative and critical analysis of linguistic phenomena, and of formulating comprehensive and specialized linguistic relationships through innovative and synthetic perspectives, accompanied by appropriate evaluative and critical reflection.

Skills:

Is able to apply and further develop discipline-specific methods of knowledge acquisition and problem solving in linguistics, encompassing both theoretical and empirical approaches.
Is capable of creatively elaborating novel practical and interdisciplinary implications of theoretical linguistic questions.
Is able to design and implement independent research projects, conduct linguistic investigations, and develop new analytical techniques and research approaches within the field.
Is capable of identifying unforeseen scholarly problems and independently exploring the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary for their resolution.
Is able to formulate and communicate new relationships relevant to the study of language in relation to society, cognition, and human interaction.

Attitude:

Contributes, through their own research topic, to the advancement of scholarly relations that examine the role of language in human cognition, communication, and cultural self-understanding.

Demonstrates intellectual curiosity and learning capacity enabling the identification and investigation of emerging and currently unpredictable research problems in linguistics.

Exhibits a professional attitude characterized by strong scholarly commitment, sustained motivation to explore innovative research directions, and dedication to persistent and reflective academic work.

Autonomy and Responsibility:

Demonstrates creative and intellectual autonomy in establishing new research directions, knowledge domains, and practical applications within linguistics.

Is capable of assuming leadership roles and engaging in high-level collaboration in the formulation and execution of theoretical and applied linguistic research.

Participates as an equal and competent partner in scholarly debate within national and international academic communities.

Responsibly engages with emerging theoretical, practical, and ethical issues related to linguistic research and actively contributes to their scholarly discussion.