

## **Doctoral study programme**

### **VETERINARY MEDICINE**

#### General information about the study programme

Educational Classification Code of the Republic of Latvia – 51640  
The programme has been accredited till December 31, 2022  
Director of study programme: **Aivars Bērziņš**, professor, Dr.med.vet.  
Address: Jelgava, Helmaņa 8, LV-3002  
Duration of doctoral studies: full-time – 3 years, part-time – 4 years  
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#### **1. Goals and objectives of the study program:**

The **goal** of the doctoral study program is to provide the highest level of theoretical knowledge in various specialties of veterinary medical science, to prepare veterinary scientists with highest qualification according to international standards for solving scientific problems in veterinary medicine and for renewal of research and academic personnel.

The doctoral study program *Veterinary medicine* is the only program that provides preparation of scientists and specialists with the highest qualification in veterinary medicine needed in Latvia.

#### **Main objectives:**

- Promote scientific (basic and applied) research in veterinary medicine;
- Create opportunity for doctoral students to master methodology of theoretical and experimental research according to international standards in veterinary medicine;
- Promote ability of doctoral students to independently formulate, study, analyze and solve current and important problems in veterinary medicine;
- Promote ability of doctoral students to address scientific problems working in research teams nationally and internationally;
- Create opportunity for doctoral students to present at international scientific forums according to their level;
- Establish collaboration between related scientific institutions in regards to research management, consultations, methodology and performance of experimental work.

## The doctoral study program Veterinary medicine

### Learning outcomes

Knowledge – doctoral student obtain highest level of the theoretical knowledge in the selected sub-branch of the veterinary medical science, obtain wide knowledge about specific problem of the veterinary medicine in the world and Latvia and its resolution possibilities.

Skills – obtain skill to formulate independently, to do research in the modern methodology level and resolve specific problems in veterinary medicine; to evaluate and analyse research results; to prepare qualitative scientific papers and finally to prepare doctoral thesis.

Competences – be competent to use obtained knowledge in the national and international level for resolution of the problems of the veterinary medicine science.

Completion of the doctoral study program results in preparation and submission of a dissertation which allows obtaining scientific doctoral degree in veterinary medicine which is internationally comparable.

The trends of doctoral studies at the FVM comply with the branch of sciences and sub-branches in Latvia approved by the Latvian Council of Science

#### **Sub-branches of science:**

Morphology

Physiology

Pathology

Veterinary pharmacology and toxicology

Internal diseases

Parasitology

Infectious diseases and microbiology

Surgery

Obstetrics and gynecology

Food inspection.

### **Doctoral study duration and total amount of credit points:**

The duration of full time doctoral studies is 3 years; duration of part time doctoral studies – 4 years. Study program contains 120 CP (credit points). Credit point distribution was revised, updated and approved by FVM Council on October 20, 2010.

#### **Theoretical courses - 20 CP**

- Graduate course in the relevant specialty of veterinary medical science (as defined by LSC) or subspecialty relevant to dissertation (requirement – passed promotion exam) 6 CP;
- Graduate course in the relevant research area of the dissertation (requirement – passed promotion exam) 6 CP;
- Professional foreign language graduate course (requirement – passed promotional exam) 4 CP;
- Research methodology course 4 CP.

#### **Scientific activities – 100 CP**

- Research 53 CP;
- Presentation of research results at scientific conferences 7 CP;
- Publication of research results in peer-reviewed publications (including study course “Preparation of scientific publication” 3 CP) 15 CP;
- Preparation and publication of dissertation 25 CP.

During **the first year of doctoral studies** in the theoretical studies, doctoral students have to complete professional foreign language graduate course (4 CP) and course in research methodology (4 CP). In the scientific activities student has to develop research hypothesis, to lay ground work in methodology and acquiring material resources for the experimental work while focusing on obtaining preliminary data (total of 20 CP). Additionally, the student has to become familiar with and summarize literature relevant to the research in progress (5 CP). Together in the first year doctoral students must obtain 33 CP.

During **the second year of doctoral studies** in the theoretical part doctoral students have to pass a promotion exam in the chosen specialty of veterinary medical

science (6 CP). In the scientific part of the program during the second year students earn 39 CP. To get these points, students continue to work on collecting and processing experimental data, prepare a manuscript for publication of research data, continue to study literature and present results at international scientific conferences. The students have to participate in LUA international conference for doctoral students “Research for Rural Development”. Together in the second academic year doctoral students must obtain 45 CP.

During **the third year of doctoral studies** in the theoretical part students have to pass a promotion exam in the relevant research area of the dissertation (6 CP) but in the scientific part of the program they have to finish experiments, process and analyze results, present abstract at least in international scientific conference and write a draft of the dissertation. Together in the third academic year doctoral students must obtain 42 CP.

Duration of the part time the doctoral study program is 4 years and the total amount of required work is the same as for full time the doctoral study program. The distribution of required CP between years is slightly different.

### **Evaluation of accomplishment of doctoral study programme**

In order to accomplish doctoral study programme successfully doctoral student together with his/her scientific supervisor works out an individual plan for the whole period of studies and for each year separately. Research theme and individual curriculum are discussed at the meetings of the Institute Board and they are approved by the Council of the Faculty.

Certification of doctoral work takes place 3 times a year at the academic meetings of the Board of an Institute where the performed work is evaluated.

Theoretic course subjects are evaluated by a 10-grade system. Promotion examinations are open and they are passed at the presence of an examination committee consisting of 3 doctors of sciences that is approved by the LUA Vice-rector of sciences.

Doctoral thesis is submitted and discussed by the Promotion Board of veterinary medicine approved by the Latvian Council of Science. Thesis is evaluated at the State

Research Qualification Committee. After its successful presentation and on the basis of decision of the Promotion Board about the obtaining of the Doctor's degree, Rector of the Latvian University of Agriculture gives the order on the issue of the state approved doctor's diploma of the University to the doctoral student.

Doctor's diploma is signed by the Rector of the University and chairman of the appropriate Promotion Board.