



**Czech Technical University in Prague**

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Requirements and recommendations additional to the Study and Examination Regulations for the Students of the CTU and the General Description of the Doctoral Study Programme in English at the FA CTU.

## **State doctoral examination requirements related to form and content**

### **State doctoral examination<sup>1</sup>**

The aim of the state doctoral examination (SDE) is to verify the range and the quality of the doctoral student's knowledge, her/his ability to acquire new knowledge, to evaluate it and use it in a creative manner in relation to the field of study chosen for the doctoral study programme and the dissertation topic. A component of SDE is a discussion on issues linked with the dissertation.

The doctoral student submits a written application for an SDE, using the prescribed form provided by the department of science and research<sup>2</sup> in the date announced in the schedule of the academic year. Successful completion of the study block is a condition for submitting the application. The application includes a list of the doctoral student's publications (projects), including any responses to them. The supervisor, the head of the training unit and the president of the ORO<sup>3</sup> approve the application. The date for the SDE is set by the Dean, after consultation with the president of the examination board.

### **Recommendations for the procedure of SDE**

The State doctoral examination starts with a non-public gathering of the examination board, where the head of the training unit informs the examination board about the outcome of the discussion about the dissertation. The public part starts with the introduction of the doctoral student to the board, followed by the brief presentation of the study by the doctoral student (max. 10 minutes) and by brief questions, asked by the board and concerning the study. Then comes the examination. There are usually three questions asked, their phrasing is part of the report from the examination. In the course of examination, the examination board members can ask additional questions, complementing or specifying the original questions asked, discussing with the doctoral student professional issues of the dissertation thesis. After the completion of the SDE the non-public part follows, then the result of the SDE is announced in public.

The subject area boards are to decide, whether to require the doctoral students' answers immediately after they get acquainted with the questions, or the doctoral students will be given certain time for preparation. The questions asked should relate to the topic of the dissertation, inquire doctoral student's knowledge in single aspects of her/his work, of the

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<sup>1</sup> Study and Examination Regulations, Article 29

<sup>2</sup> State Doctoral Examination - Application Form; available on the faculty website

<sup>3</sup> ORO = subject area board for separate branches of studies

published solutions of parallel issues and find out whether she/he is capable of finding suitable solutions and conceive viable methods and procedures. The questions therefore do not have to be conceived in relation to professional courses of the doctoral studies study block.

If the outcome of the evaluation of the SDE examiners is “fail”, the doctoral student may repeat the SDE one more time, but not earlier than three months from the date of the unsuccessful examination. In the event of a repeated SDE being assessed as “fail”, the student’s studies are terminated. After successful completion of the SDE, the department of science and research issues a document which verifies that the doctoral student successfully passed the SDE.

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