

11. Operating Regulations of the Internal Scientific Postgraduate Program¹⁵³

11.1. The main information on the Internal Scientific Postgraduate Program (hereinafter: the Program):

11.1.1. Abbreviated name of the Program: TKBF BTPK

11.1.2. Post address: Dharma Gate Buddhist College

1098 Budapest IX., Börzsöny utca 11.

11.1.3. Telephone: (+361) 280-67-12

11.1.4. Fax: 11.1.5. (+361) 280-67-14

E-mail: tankapu@tkbf.hu

11.1.6. Website: <http://www.dgbc.hu>

11.1.7. Operational framework: The Program operates within the framework of the Dharma Gate Buddhist College (hereinafter: the College).

11.2. The Head of the Program

11.2.1. The Head of the Program is appointed and dismissed by the Rector of the College based on the recommendation of the Senate of the College from among the founding internal members. The appointment is for a term of 3 years and may be renewed. The Head of the Program shall be an ordinary member, corresponding member, or doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, or hold the title Doctor of Science; in the absence of such, a university professor or associate professor may be appointed temporarily.

11.3. The Founders of the Program¹⁵⁴

11.3.1. All instructors of the College holding a doctoral degree shall be considered as founders of the postgraduate program \[SzMSz 2.5.3.5 b)].

11.4. The Members of the Program

11.4.1. The members of the Program are the founding members and the invited domestic and foreign instructors who may participate in teaching, announcing research topics, and supervising and supporting the scientific work of the aspirants. 11.4.2. Supervisors are classified according to research fields.

11.4.3. The members of the Program are instructors and researchers holding a scientific degree or a pandita degree, whom the Program Council considers suitable for performing teaching, research, and supervisory duties. The members of the Program are invited to participate in the work of the Program by the Head of the Program.

11.4.4. The appointment of a member

is terminated:

a) upon the death of the member,

b) upon the termination of
the Program,

c) by resignation,

d) by decision of the Program Council, especially if it is clearly justifiable that the person in question is no longer suitable to perform teaching or supervisory duties within the framework of the Program.

11.5. General Characteristics of the Program

11.5.1. The Program consists of six semesters. The Program may be interrupted once, provided that the aspirant has fulfilled the academic requirements of the preceding semester. The duration of the Program may be extended by two semesters upon special request; during this period, the aspirant is no longer entitled to course exemptions. The Program may be shortened without limitation at the request of the aspirant, provided that the aspirant has fulfilled the requirements for all six semesters.

¹⁵³ Adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2008. The comprehensive amendment covering Sections 11.3.1, 11.5.5., 11.7.1, 11.8.1, 11.11.3, 11.11.4, 11.14, and 11.23 was adopted by the Senate by Resolution No. 29/2022. (07.14.) on July 14, 2022.

¹⁵⁴ The founders of the Program were designated by the Senate in Resolution No. 3/2008. (06.12.) dated June 12, 2008, and later within the framework of the Organizational and Operational Regulations reform in Resolution No. 10/2019. (04.04.) dated April 4, 2019.

11.5.2. Participants in the Program do not have a grade book, do not attend contact hours, and their training takes place in the form of consultations with their supervisor.

11.5.3. Participants in the Program – from the academic semester in which their application is accepted – are exempt from teaching one course at the College for six semesters (but no longer than the duration of the Program), provided they meet the following conditions:

11.5.3.1. The supervisor provides written confirmation to the Program Council that a sufficient number of consultations have been held with the aspirant.

11.5.3.2. The aspirant is required to prepare at least two studies related to their topic each year and to publish at least one of them in a scientific forum. One of the studies may be a translation of appropriate length from an Eastern language. The aspirant is required to submit the study or publication to the Program Council before the end of the given year.

11.5.4. If the aspirant fails to meet any of the above requirements, they shall no longer be entitled to course exemption and must make up for the previously granted exemption in the following semester. In cases deserving exceptional consideration, the Program Council may waive the condition specified in Section 5.3.2 of the present Regulations upon a joint written request from the aspirant and the supervisor, especially if the aspirant has demonstrably published a book. In cases deserving exceptional consideration, no more than one year without publication may be permitted. If the reason for the exceptional consideration later ceases to apply, the publication must be submitted without delay.

11.5.5 An aspirant who has taught at the College for at least 10 years, either full-time or part-time, is exempt from the obligations set out in Sections 11.5.1–4, 11.12, and 11.15.

11.6. The Internal Structure of the Program

11.6.1. The educational and research activities and programs of the Program are organized according to the hierarchy of “research field” and “topic,” exclusively in fields related to the educational and research responsibilities of the College and in which no doctoral training exists in Hungary. From the already extensive and expectedly expanding spectrum of sciences related to Buddhism, the Program Council specifies the levels of the above general hierarchy according to the appropriately selected broader research field, reflecting both the professional background of the College and the diverse expertise of its scholars.

11.7. The Program Council¹⁵⁵

11.7.1. The responsibilities of the Program Council are carried out by the Scientific Council \[SzMsz 2.5.3.5 b)]. 11.7.2. The tasks of the Program Council:

11.7.2.1. It approves the training programs submitted by the heads of the educational and research programs. 11.7.2.2. It decides on the invited instructors and researchers based on the proposal of the Head of the Program.

11.7.2.3. It reviews the announced scientific topics. A scientific topic is a scientific objective the realization of which enables the aspirant, under the guidance of the supervisor (scientific advisor), to acquire scientific knowledge and the application of scientific methods, and to demonstrate this through scientific articles, presentations, publications, and the Dissertation.

11.7.2.4. The Program Council forms a position in principle regarding the preparation of the aspirants’ training plans and the selection of the scientific topic. The training plan and scientific topic prepared on this basis are approved jointly by the supervisor and the research field leader.

11.7.2.5. It requires supervisors to report on their activities and on the management of the budget. 11.7.2.6. It takes a position on the aspirants’ Dissertations based on the proposals of the research field leaders and decides on the awarding of the pandita degree.

11.7.2.7. Based on the credit system proposed by the Senate of the College, it establishes a scoring system for evaluating the aspirants’ academic and research performance.

11.7.2.8. It allocates the support available for the Program.

11.7.2.9. It annually reviews the foreign institutions that may be involved in the Program, plans the travel of the aspirants, and the invitation of visiting professors.

11.7.2.10. It provides an opinion on the College’s quality assurance system related to the Program. 11.7.2.11. It makes a proposal to the Senate of the College regarding the composition of the Admission Committees.

11.7.2.12. Based on the reports of the Admission Committees, it decides on the individuals to be admitted and on the supervisors. Admission applies to the training program.

11.7.2.13. It annually reviews the progress of the aspirants’ academic and educational-research tasks and, in case of delays, takes the necessary measures in accordance with the present Regulations.

11.7.2.14. It authorizes participation in parallel training in a field related to the Program.

¹⁵⁵ The Program Council was designated by the Senate in Resolution No. 3/2008 (06.12.) dated June 12, 2008, and later within the framework of the Organizational and Operational Regulations reform by Resolution No. 10/2019 (04.04.) dated April 4, 2019.

11.7.2.15. It appoints the composition of the Defense Evaluation Committee. It proposes to the Head of the Program the invitation of the members of the Committee.

11.7.2.16. It annually reviews the activities of the instructors participating in the Program and makes recommendations regarding new founding members, invited instructors and researchers, as well as the dismissal of members and invitees.

11.7.2.17. It decides on the initiation and termination of the Program's educational and research programs.

11.7.3. The Program Council has a quorum if more than half of its voting members (internal and external members) are present. The written votes submitted in advance in sealed envelopes by absent members of the Program Council must also be taken into account. The chairperson is responsible for ensuring the secrecy of the absent member's vote. The Program Council makes personnel-related decisions by secret ballot with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chairperson decides. The Program Council adopts its other resolutions under the same conditions by open voting. The Program Council meets as necessary, with the chairperson deciding on the convening of meetings. Minutes are prepared for the meetings of the Program Council, which are authenticated by the chairperson's signature.

11.8. Application to the Program

11.8.1. The aspirant has been a full-time instructor at the College for at least 1 year and holds an MA (university-level) degree.

11.8.2. The aspirant submits the following documents to the Program Council through the College's Academic Affairs Office for the application:

- a) Copy of diploma
- b) Professional curriculum vitae
- c) List of publications
- d) A 3–6 page summary of the planned Dissertation
- e) The supervisor's written statement of acceptance

11.8.3. Applications may be submitted by August 25 and January 25 of each year. The Program Council notifies the applicant in writing about the admission result by September 15 and February 15 each year.

11.8.4. The Program Council also decides on the language in which the aspirant may submit the Dissertation in its admission decision.

11.9. The Dissertation

11.9.1. By the end of the sixth semester of the Program, the aspirant must submit a Dissertation to the Program Council that is equivalent in quantity and quality to a traditional doctoral dissertation.

11.9.2. The Program Council decides on the examiners of the Dissertation within three months following its submission. The aspirant receives written notification of the decision.

11.9.3. The aspirant prepares a response to the reviews received from the examiners within two months of receipt and submits it to the Program Council.

11.10. The Defense

11.10.1. The Program Council establishes the composition of the Defense Evaluation Committee. The chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee must be an ordinary member, corresponding member, or doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, or hold the Doctor of Science degree, or be a university professor; members of the Defense Evaluation Committee must hold a scientific degree or a pandita degree. The members of the Defense Evaluation Committee are the chairperson, the supervisor, the two examiners, and one additional member. The chairperson and one of the examiners of the Defense Evaluation Committee cannot be full-time instructors at the College. The Defense Evaluation Committee has a quorum if at least four of its members, including the chairperson and one examiner, are present. 11.10.2. The Program Council, in consultation with the aspirant and the members of the Defense Evaluation Committee, sets the date for the defense of the Dissertation. The defense of the Dissertation is public.

11.10.3. The defense must invite the Head of the Program, its founders and members, the members of the Program Council, the supervisor, the head and instructors of the relevant department, as well as well-known representatives of the profession. The defense is chaired by the chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee.

11.10.4. Before the defense begins, the Defense Evaluation Committee summarizes the comments related to the Dissertation in a closed session and formulates the questions to be asked during the defense.

11.10.5. The procedure of the defense:

- a.) The defense is opened by the chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee, who then presents the scientific biography of the aspirant; b.) The aspirant presents the theses of their Dissertation in a free presentation;
- c.) The members of the Defense Evaluation Committee present the essence of their reviews and make a proposal either to award the pandita degree or to reject the application. The chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee presents the written opinion of the absent examiner;
- d.) The chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee asks the questions formulated during the closed session, then the members of the Defense Evaluation Committee and those present may ask questions to the aspirant and make comments on the Dissertation and the statements made during the defense;
- e.) The aspirant responds to the reviews and to the statements made during the defense;
- f.) The members of the Defense Evaluation Committee have the opportunity for a single rebuttal;
- g.) As the conclusion of the defense, the chairperson of the Defense Evaluation Committee gives the aspirant the opportunity to make a final statement, then closes the defense;
- h.) After the conclusion of the defense, the members of the Defense Evaluation Committee declare whether they uphold their original proposals;
- i.) After the declarations, the Defense Evaluation Committee withdraws and decides on the acceptance of the Dissertation in a closed session by secret ballot, scoring 0-1-2-3 points;
- j.) The defense is successful if the aspirant achieves at least 60% of the maximum possible points.

11.10.6. The aspirant may appeal the decision of the Defense Evaluation Committee to the Program Council within 15 days from delivery or from becoming aware of the decision. The Program Council makes its decision based on the aspirant's appeal request, the minutes of the public debate and closed session, as well as the written comments of the Defense Evaluation Committee. The Program Council may decide to hold personal hearings for both the aspirant and the members of the Defense Evaluation Committee.

11.11. Awarding of the pandita degree

11.11.1. Based on the report of the Defense Evaluation Committee, the scores received, and any possible appeal, the Program Council decides on the awarding of the pandita degree. The Program Council also takes a position on the classification of the degree based on the scores achieved in the defense. The classification of the pandita degree is "rite" if the aspirant achieves less than 70% of the maximum possible points, "cum laude" if the aspirant achieves less than 80% of the maximum possible points, and "summa cum laude" if the aspirant achieves at least 80% of the maximum possible points.

11.11.2. In the case of an unsuccessful defense, a new procedure may be initiated for the same topic no sooner than two years later and only once.

11.11.3. Following a successful defense, the College issues a certificate as the completion of the Program. It must include the designation of the scientific discipline in which the candidate was awarded the pandita degree. The Rector's Office of the College keeps a register of the certificates issued. The College awards the certificate at a ceremony held in a formal setting. At the ceremony, the aspirants take the pandita vow.

11.11.4. Persons awarded the pandita degree may use the title "pandita" alongside their name after the ceremony.

11.12. The Scientific Seminar of the Program

After processing the professional material assigned by the supervisor, the aspirant must present their acquired knowledge and partial results at the Program's Scientific Seminar, addressing possibilities for further progress. Aspirants must present the results of their independent research once a year for discussion at the Seminar, following the submission of a detailed written report on the progress of their Dissertation development. All aspirants, supervisors, and research field leaders of the Program must participate in the work of the Seminar.

11.13. The Program Forum

To discuss general issues of the Program, the Program Council usually convenes a Forum once per academic year, chaired by the Head of the Program. All aspirants and all members of the Program receive an invitation to the Forum at least two weeks prior to the meeting. In exceptional cases, the Forum must be convened upon the request of at least one-third of the aspirants or members.

11.14. The Program's Grant Applications

The Program may participate in national and international grant applications affecting postgraduate training, taking its own interests into account. The submission of grant applications is the responsibility of the Head of the Program, relying on the active cooperation of the research group leaders.

11.15. Workshop Discussion

The workplace discussion of the completed Dissertation takes place upon the decision of the Program Council.

11.16. Aspirants' Academic Obligations

The academic obligations of the aspirants in the Program are governed appropriately by the provisions of the College's Study and Examination Regulations, unless otherwise specified in the present Regulations.

11.17. The Financial Management of the Program

The allocation of available material and personnel resources based on professional considerations—especially regarding the number of aspirants and consultations—is decided by the Program Council.

11.18. Publications

The Publication Practice of the Program

- a) Publishing in the conference proceedings organized in Hungary
- b) Ensuring the publication of achieved and professionally reviewed scientific research results in the College's publications
- c) Presentations at international conferences and publication of scientific research results
- d) Publication of outstanding scientific research results in international journals

11.19. Dissertation

The Program Council determines and publishes the formal requirements for the full text of the Dissertation as well as for the theses.

11.20. The College Website

The Program publishes the following on the College website:

- a) its educational and research programs,
- b) the list of members of the Program,
- c) the announced research topics,
- d) the place and time of professional consultations,
- e) the place and time of lectures by invited foreign professors,
- f) the programs featured at the Program's Scientific Seminar,
- g) the opportunities for foreign study trips,
- h) materials presenting the scientific achievements of the aspirants,
- i) the place and time of workshop discussions,
- j) the place, time, and results of the defenses,
- k) the Dissertations in downloadable form,
- l) calls for conferences,
- m) other information determined by the Program Council.

11.21. The aspirants

The Program maintains a register of the aspirants through the College's Rector's Office and maintains ongoing contact with them. The register includes:

- a) the personal data of the aspirant,

- b) the title of the Dissertation,
- c) the place, date, and outcome of the defense,
- d) the name and position of the supervisor,
- e) the composition of the Defense Evaluation Committee and the personal data of the examiners,
- f) the major achievements and significant publications of the aspirant.

11.22. Quality Assurance

The Program carries out its work in quality assurance in accordance with the College's Quality Assurance Regulations.

11.23. Closing provisions

- a) These Regulations came into effect on May 22, 2008.
- b) The Senate adopted the consolidated and unified text of these Regulations, including amendments, by Resolution No. 29/2022 (07.14), 2022. with effect from July 15,. The amendments must be applied to all programs where the defense has not yet taken place, provided that they are overall more favorable to the aspirant.

Budapest, July 14, 2022.

Gábor Karsai rector