

INFORMATION

The third degree of university education (PhD-study) at Bratislava Faculty of medicine, Comenius University, Bratislava

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Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University

The Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University was the first faculty of the largest and oldest University in Slovakia. Faculty of Medicine was opened in 1919. Today, regarding its educational profile, Faculty of Medicine has two branches – General Medicine and Dentistry – comprising 17 preclinical and 35 clinical departments, and 14 additional clinical and research laboratories. Our teaching and research staff consists of 60 professors, 103 associate professors, 312 assistant professors and 43 senior scientific advisers and senior research associates. Up today, 19 283 students has graduated at Faculty of Medicine. In average, there are 2100 students at Faculty of Medicine. The study lasts 12 semesters and is divided into 6 years, with total more than 5000 hours of theoretical and practical study. Summer holiday practice in Slovak and foreign health institutes is the part of the study.

The Faculty of Medicine seeks to educate students by promoting their intellectual development and gradual accumulation of competence in the art of medicine. Although the primary goal of the Faculty of Medicine is to educate medical students, an equally important aim is the scientific research, targeted at new discoveries.

Our research community has established close ties with other European scientific centers. Many members of the Faculty of Medicine were educated at European and American Universities. Most of our leading scientists and teachers have been working as Research or Clinical Fellows in leading health care centers; they regularly attend international congresses and symposia, bringing our research into an international arena. The Faculty of Medicine welcomes and regularly receives Guest-Lecturers and Research Fellows.

Postgraduate training

After completing the Doctor of Medicine Program, those who want to pursue the postgraduate training at the Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava, can choose the PhD. Training Program or the Residency Training Program.

PhD – Training Program

Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, accepts PhD. students in major scientific fields of medicine and dentistry (Tab. 1). PhD. students are selected through an admission examination procedure. Annually, 50–80 students are admitted. Duration of scientific training is 3 years. During this time, participants are expected to gain credit points from compulsory and elective courses given either in Slovak or English language. Through the research work, participants have to attest their ability and creativity in the respective scientific field. PhD. students are required to participate in practical teaching of undergraduate courses. PhD. theses are written in Slovak, Czech or English languages. Publication of the scientific results, preferably in journals with high impact factor, is a fundamental requirement.

PhD. Program – as the third degree University education, is related to long-term tradition of scientific training (since 1951). During 3–5 year scientific training, postgraduate was working under the guidance of supervisor, passing examination from specific subjects, concentrating on own research, presenting results at local and foreign scientific congresses, writing publications in scientific journals and, finally, submitting dissertation for processing. After successful dissertation processing, the postgraduate was awarded the title CSc (candidate of science). The next step of this scientific process was the title DrSc. (doctor of science). The first candidates of science justified their dissertations in 1951. Till 1975, approximately 500 candidates of science were awarded. Later, after 1980, predominantly the external form of scientific training accelerated. After 1991, the postgraduate study form of scientific training gradually transformed to PhD. study. The number of PhD students at Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University in Bratislava on 21.3.2005 is following:– internal form (67), – external form (341), – foreign PhD students (18).

The study lasts 3 years in internal form and 5 years in external form. Students, participating in PhD study in scientific fields, have to finish their study at least till 2010. From academic year 2005/2006, the PhD study is transforming to study programs in study fields. The credit system will be implemented. The average number is approximately 50 PhD graduates per year; 20 PhD students do not finish their study or move to other institutes (abroad or to health care delivery).

Tab. 1. List of study programs in study fields of PhD study on Faculty of Medicine, CU, Bratislava.

4.1.22	biochemistry
4.2.3	molecular biology
4.2.15	immunology
7.1.2	anatomy, histology and embryology
7.1.3	normal and pathological physiology
7.1.4	internal medicine
7.1.7	surgery
7.1.9	gynecology and obstetrics
7.1.10	pediatry
7.1.11	neurology
7.1.13	dermatology
7.1.14	ophthalmology
7.1.15	oncology
7.1.16	otorhinolaryngology
7.1.18	toxicology
7.1.20	anesthesiology and resuscitation
7.1.21	pathological anatomy, forensic medicine
7.1.22	orthopedics
7.1.23	urology
7.1.24	physiatrics, balneology and rehabilitation
7.1.26	dentistry
7.1.27	nursing
7.1.28	health service
7.1.31	clinical pharmacology

For a PhD study in theoretical disciplines, a graduate from non-medical faculty may also be enrolled (natural sciences, genetics, biochemistry...). For study programs in clinical departments, only graduates from Faculty of Medicine are accepted. During the PhD study, the student cannot receive another title. Only docent or professor from local or foreign institute may be the supervisor. Supervisor – specialist (at least PhD) may be present. Each dissertation and self-report include the list of publications related to presented dissertation.

A prerequisite for PhD graduating are 3 scientific lectures related to topic at scientific congresses and 2 full text articles published in indexed journal, with PhD student being the first author (3 publications in external form).

The organization of PhD study, admission rules and the course of PhD study, scholarships, list of topics, list of supervisors a teaching departments, and more information is available at home page of the Faculty of Medicine and Comenius University in Slovak and English language. A special department for science and research, participating in organization and administrative guide of PhD study, is established.

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