



## Faculty of Economics and Management Comprehensive Examination for Doctoral Studies

### Purpose

The comprehensive examination aims to assess the candidates' scientific competence, their theoretical depth in the subject of their research, their understanding of their contribution, and their research maturity, as well as to determine the extent to which the preparation and completion of the doctoral dissertation is feasible within the expected timeline and constitutes a realistic expectation, in accordance with the Internal Regulations of Doctoral Studies.

### Content and Procedures

According to the program requirements, the comprehensive examination includes:

- A) the submission of key chapters of the doctoral dissertation, and
- B) an oral examination, which will take place either in person or remotely through the University's e-learning platform and will be conducted under the supervision procedures defined by the current invigilation system.

Indicatively, the chapters submitted for evaluation include:

- **Introduction:** Discussion of the topic under study, its significance and originality, and the dissertation's contribution to the enrichment of scientific knowledge through research, along with the purpose and research questions.
- **Literature Review:** Should include sufficient and up-to-date literature, offering a thorough and in-depth overview of international research related to the topic of the dissertation. The review may be enriched with additional and more recent references at a later stage (upon completion of the dissertation).
- **Methodology:** Presentation of the methodological approach of the research, based on a coherent and well-documented theoretical and conceptual framework from which the research questions and hypotheses arise. The overall research design is described and its suitability justified in relation to the objectives of the dissertation, including the choice and development of research tools or analytical approaches, the proposed process for collecting, analyzing, and/or documenting research material (where applicable), as well as the context within which the subject of the study is situated. At the same time, the proposed methods for processing and analyzing the data or sources are examined, along with the measures for ensuring the validity and reliability of the research, as well as the



feasibility of implementing the methodological plan in relation to the availability of the necessary resources and the overall timeline for completing the dissertation.

The number and content of the chapters submitted as part of the comprehensive examination may differ from the indicative requirements, depending on the semester in which the examination takes place and the progress of the doctoral candidate. In any case, the submitted chapters must be scientifically complete, coherent, and fit harmoniously within the broader research design and overall structure of the doctoral dissertation. Any deviations from the basic structure or content of the indicative chapters are acceptable, provided they have been well-justified and agreed upon in advance with the Three-Member Advisory Committee.

The evaluation by the Three-Member Committee will focus on the following:

- Originality and independent critical thinking demonstrated in the conception and approach of the research
- Quality of writing and overall presentation of the submission, as well as the candidate's ability to communicate their research clearly
- Depth of understanding of the subject area, including familiarity with core literature and theoretical framework, and knowledge of the appropriate research methods, techniques, and data required, where applicable
- Feasibility of implementing the proposed work plan, ensuring that the remaining research activities can be completed within the expected timeframe and with the resources/data required, where applicable

The material submitted for evaluation must fully comply with the ethical and academic integrity standards set by the Open University of Cyprus and expected of research at this level, regardless of the type or methodological approach of the dissertation. This includes addressing ethical issues in a documented manner, such as the responsible use and management of research material and sources, the protection of sensitive information where applicable, and compliance with the principles of good research practice. Additionally, the written work must demonstrate correct and consistent scholarly referencing, responsible use of relevant literature, and full adherence to the academic integrity regulations of the Open University of Cyprus, without indications or suspicions of plagiarism, improper use of artificial intelligence tools, or other forms of inappropriate academic behavior. All submissions within the comprehensive examination are checked using plagiarism detection software, and the relevant report is made available to the supervisory committee.