

GOOD PRACTICES IN PREPARING A DOCTORAL DISSERTATION at IA PAS

Good practices constitute a collection of the most important guidelines relating to the preparation of a doctoral dissertation at the Institute of Agrophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IA PAS). The intention is that this document will provide support in the preparation of a doctoral dissertation for both IA PAS' doctoral students and their supervisors, as well as for reviewers evaluating these doctoral dissertations. Being a part of the scientific work culture of the Institute, by indicating the preferred principles and methods of preparing a doctoral dissertation, this document aims to improve the standards and the quality of the written scientific work. However, an individual approach shall remain priority to each doctoral dissertation, due to the variety of undertaken research topics, the specificity of conducted research, the applied research workshop and other aspects of the prepared and evaluated theses.

The Act referred to in this document is the Act of 20 July 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668 with amendments).

1. A doctoral dissertation presents a Candidate's (a person applying for a doktor degree) general theoretical knowledge in the discipline of agriculture and horticulture and the ability of conducting scientific work independently. A dissertation should include: a complete and up-to-date description of the current scientific knowledge and the resulting clearly formulated scientific and/or technological objective, appropriately selected research methodology, method of conducting statistical analyzes, description of results with discussion, briefly and clearly formulated conclusion indicating directions for further research, a way of using the results in the economic or social sphere, and a bibliography.
2. The subject of a doctoral dissertation is an original solution to a scientific problem or an innovative method of applying the results of own scientific research in the economic or social sphere.
3. A doctoral dissertation may take a written form, e.g. a scientific monograph or a collection of published and thematically related scientific articles. The form should be adapted to suit to the specifics of the problem at hand.
4. For dissertations aimed at an original solution of a scientific problem, the preferred written form is a collection of at least 3 thematically related scientific articles, published in journals from the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) list, the total IF of which cannot be less than 4.0. Such be the case, the scientific achievements listed in Art. 186.1.3 of the Act should be part of the doctoral dissertation. A Candidate should be the first author in at least 1 publication included in the doctoral dissertation. A summary of the results presented in publications constituting the doctoral dissertation should be a part of the dissertation.
5. If a Candidate has not met the criteria listed in point 4, it is suggested that the dissertation shall be prepared in the form of a monograph, containing the results previously published and supplemented with other research results. Information about the fact that the research results were published earlier should be included in the dissertation. In at least 1 publication included in the dissertation, a Candidate should be the first author.
6. For research aimed at finding original solution in the field of applying the results of own scientific work in the economic or social sphere (e.g. implementation doctorates), the dissertation may take the form of a monograph. Such be case, individual chapters may be previously published articles or patent descriptions, however, such information shall be clearly stated in the dissertation.
7. The dissertation may be presented in Polish or English and must be accompanied by a summary in both languages.
8. In the case of two-author or multi-author scientific achievements, a Candidate shall attach their own and co-authors' statements indicating their substantive, not percentage, contribution to each individual achievement.
9. A Candidate submits the doctoral dissertation in electronic and paper form to the IA PAS' Doctoral School office.
10. An honourable mention may be granted to a doctoral dissertation consisting of a collection of thematically related scientific articles, the total IF of which is higher than 7.0.