Guidelines for study procedure and MA & PhD/Dr. thesis

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1. General approach of our online MA & PhD/Dr. study programs

The studying process at the International School of Psychology at the UCN is organized:

a) along a research process of a self submitted und from the academic advisor approved research topic and
b) along the step by step writing of the at least 7 chapters of the final.

In order to enhance and support the learning process and to establish a long-time memory of the acquired essential psychological knowledge the structure of the studying process supports:

a) connecting a self-chosen, fascinating research project with the required study content at the moment where this content is relevant for the research process
b) the writing of the final paper along the development of this research project

This way, essential findings from the fields of motivational psychology and neuro-science are applied to the successful acquiring of the required psychology study content for an academic degree in psychology.

Through studying guided by a self-chosen subjectively highly meaningful research topic we support the maintenance of the high motivation of the student. Through the step by step writing of the final thesis the needed study content is acquired exactly at that point of time when it is needed for the research process.

The structure of our study offer is designed for the purpose that students can study research orientated and write the different chapters of their final thesis from their first day of beginning the studies. This study offer contains the relevant areas that are required for a psychology degree: Scientific Working, General Psychology, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Business / Work / Industrial Psychology, Differential & Personality Psychology, Biological Psychology, Philosophy of Science and Ethics, Research Design, Qualitative research methods, Quantitative research methods, Empiricism/Statistics, Pre-test, Scientific presentation of research findings and the specialisation in a Focus Area.

According to the chosen focus we offer courses in additional areas as e.g.: Communication & Interaction, Coaching Psychology, Neuro-Science, Neuro-Linguistic Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Health, Psychotherapeutic Methods and Diagnostic.

In case that the competence and the relevant psychological knowledge of one of the relevant areas for the chosen focus is not demonstrated sufficiently enough in the text of the several chapters of the thesis, that is the basis in the relevant semester final examination, then we examine this separately in the semester final examination or through extra examinations.

Your progress is demonstrated and documented through a step-by-step development of a PowerPoint presentation and visualized through a Mind-Map. At the end of each semester you rework the existing slides and add new slides that are pointed and pregnant marks of your progress and your research project. This in the end contributes to the presentation of your defence.

You can find the list of all courses in the Curricula on the website:
MA Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-MA-UCN-Psych.pdf
Doctorate Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-PhD-UCN-Psych.pdf

In exceptional cases, it is possible to differ from the structure explained in the present guidelines if consent of the responsible professor from the UCN is given.

The different requirements in extend and depth for bachelor, master and doctoral candidates are defined in the Dublin Descriptors on pages 13-14.

For the application of admittance in our study program a Research Proposal is required.
Please see for details our open Moodle course at: www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028
Please send your Research Proposal for review with your CV to the International School of Psychology at the UCN: campus.berlin@ucn.edu.ni

The websites with more info: www.ucn.edu.ni/posgrados/international-school-of-psychology

The following 7 pages provide guidelines for writing each of the 7 chapters of your thesis:

1. **Scientific overview and background** (~ 20 pages)
2. **Scientific literature** (~ 20 pages)
3. **Expert interviews** (qualitative methodology, ~ 20 pages)
4. **Research design** (quantitative methodology, ~ 20 pages)
5. **Findings** (~ 20 pages text plus x pages figures and tables)
6. **Critical reflection of your findings** (~ 20 pages)
7. **Summary** (~ 10 pages)

At the end of each semester you hand in the achieved part of the relevant chapter of your thesis. Each chapter includes proof of your ability to apply the psychological knowledge required for this part of your studies. This constitutes the final exam for this semester and leads to the needed ECTS for the semester.

1. Guidelines for the study procedure and the 7 chapters of the final

Guidelines Chapter 1: Scientific overview and background

Topic (~ 20 pages)	**Remarks**	**date**
1.1 Introduction to topic and research motivation		
1.2 Problem clearly described and Status Quo (actual findings) of the field explained		
1.3 Benefits from the research of the topic explained		
1.4 Most important terms defined (especially those in the title)		
1.5 Connections with the most important psychology areas		
1.6 Connections with the chosen focus area (or areas)		
1.7 First wording of the hypotheses described + main terms defined		
1.8 Preview of chapter 2 to 4		
1.9 Quotes from primary literature used too. 3 kinds of quotation used: a) without quotes, b) with quotes within the text in a maximum of 3 lines (! With page numbers), c) indented quotes if the text has more than 3 lines. With longer quotes before the quote the meaning expressed with own words and the quote used as prove and after the quote the connection expressed between the own words before the quote and the quote.		
1.10 “Development of hypothesises” proven or home work		
1.11 Scientific working, quoting and formatting (s. APA) proven or home work		
1.12 PowerPoint about the research (about 7 slides, each with max. 7 lines with max. 7 words) and MindMap		
1.13 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the first chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 2: Scientific Literature

Topic (~ 20 pages)	**Remarks**	**date**
2.1 relevant scientific literature cited, explained and discussed For literature research we recommend the databases that you can find in our open Moodle course “Research Proposal”: http://www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028		
2.2 A few professional articles (preferably peer reviewed) and the most important findings of about 3 to 5 research studies summarized and these findings connected to the chosen topic incl. some quotes (1.9) used		
2.3 Summary of these 3 research studies provided for fellow students on Moodle		
2.4 Consequences of the literature search on the development of the hypothesis described and the more precise hypothesises explained and justified		
2.5 PowerPoint and Mind-Map updated		
2.6 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the second chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 3: Expert Interviews (qualitative methodology)

Topic (~ 20 pages)	**Remarks**	**date**
3.1 Expectations of the use of Expert Interviews provided		
3.2 Selection of experts justified and pro and cons discussed		
3.3 A few expert interviews summarized and in examples with learn effects quoted and explained		
3.4 Influence of the expert interviews on the development of the Hypotheses described and the more precise hypotheses described and justified		
3.5 Differences between qualitative expert interviews (incl. evaluation procedure) and quantitative research method (self designed questionnaire and standard questionnaire) proven or home work		
3.6 PowerPoint and Mind-Map updated		
3.7 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the third chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 4: Research Design (quantitative methodology)

Topic (~ 20 pages)	**Remarks**	**date**
4.1 The whole methodological approach summarized (research design)		
4.2 Testable hypotheses and appropriate test instruments		
4.3 Test instruments and reasons for choosing them explained in detail. Advantages and disadvantages and the needed sample size discussed (eventually the control group too)		
4.4 Plan of the intended statistical analysis of the data, incl. measure of central tendency, deviation, and appropriate differential statistic		
4.5 Discussion in detail how each question of the chosen or self developed questionnaire is justified by the hypotheses (incl. +/- and repeated questions)		
4.6 Described how to find the subjects you use for your research and pros and cons discussed		
4.7 Pretest carried out and influence on the final research design explained		
4.8 Pre-test provided or homework about the necessity of a pre-test		
4.9 PowerPoint and Mind-Map updated		
4.10 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the fourth chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 5: Findings

Topic (~ 20 pages text plus x pages figures & tables)	**Remarks**	**date**
5.1 Precise description of the concrete circumstances of the data collection, so that others could repeat the research		
5.2 Summarized explanation in the introduction of this chapter of the used statistical formula for the tables and graphs described and their usefulness in connection with the research question (hypotheses) discussed		
5.3 Extensive presentation of the findings with tables and graphs		
5.4 Useful structured presentation of the findings in accordance with the used research instruments (questionnaires)		
5.5 Tables and graphs (s. APA standards) provided and discussed and approved through your academic advisor or home work		
5.6 PowerPoint and Mind-Map updated		
5.7 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the fifth chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 6: Critical reflection of your findings

Topic (~ 20 pages)	**Remarks**	**date**
6.1 Critical reflection provided of the methodological approach, the used statistical methods and the findings with the discussion of alternative explanations of special relevant findings		
6.2 Further conclusions presented and discussed and alternative interpretations acknowledged and critically discussed		
6.3 Discussed how the findings can be used in practice with recommendations		
6.4 Recommendations for further research provided		
6.5 PowerPoint and Mind-Map updated		
6.6 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the sixth chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

Guidelines Chapter 7: Summary

Topic (~ 10 pages)*	**Remarks**	**date**
7.1 Hypotheses in Abstract and Summary included		
7.2 Difference between Abstract and Summary proven or home work		
7.3 Final title check: Does the title really represent the most central focus of the final and are all relevant words used in the title are clearly defined and discussed in chapter 1?		
7.4 PowerPoint: Max. 20 slides (each with max. 7 lines with max. 7 words) for the 20 minutes presentation at the defence presented, discussed and approved through your academic advisor		
3.6 Mind-Map updated		
3.7 This checklist with short explanations (remarks), the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map + the seventh chapter discussed and approved through your academic advisor		

* If the final is not in English language a English version of the abstract and summary needs to be provided as well.

3. Further explanations regarding the 7 chapters of the MA or PhD/Dr. thesis

Prerequisite for admission is a Research Proposal

We designed our distant learning study program so that you work on your final along a self-selected research topic from the very first day. This research topic needs to be within the area of psychology and connected to something you are really deeply interested and motivated to research. Something within the area of psychology where you want to find solutions for a problem so that you add to scientific and practical useful knowledge. Your whole distant learning study program is designed around this self-selected research topic.

Therefore, you need to submit for the Master as well as for the Doctor study program a research proposal that is approved by the UCN International School of Psychology before you can apply as student.

Each problem that you know personally as a challenge or each problem that you see that other people have and where you would like to find solutions, is suitable as a starting point for your research project. We say, “If you know a problem, then turn it into a research and contribute to the solution.”

The content of your research proposal can highly contribute to the first 2 chapters of your thesis.

Our open Moodle course “Research Proposal”: www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028

1st Step (Chapter 1): Scientific overview and background

In your chapter 1 you write (besides other parts) about the application of relevant basic knowledge from Psychology and the chosen focus area on your chosen research topic and hypotheses.

You learn psychological knowledge (standard Psychology and focus area) best when you have a problem or challenge that you are highly motivated to solve (Research proposal). So, you do research in standard psychological knowledge: General Psychology, Communication Psychology, Industrial Psychology, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Neuropsychology, Differential Psychology… and in relevant knowledge from the chosen focus area for relevant information in accordance with your research proposal.

This is practical psychology applied first hand. With the basic ideas of your research proposal and what you find out about relevant psychological knowledge you already create the first draft of your first chapter of your final paper. Here you show that you can apply this knowledge pragmatically. By combining this knowledge with your very specific goal-oriented motivation we offer you the chance to learn effective, efficient and fast. In this first phase, you already find out useful facts that you can use in your practical and professional life. And you learn to approach problems with the help of psychological thinking and research – Science that creates practical useful knowledge.

PhD Students get the opportunity to deepen in this step their psychological knowledge by tutoring other students through e.g. creating Moodle courses.

2nd Step (Chapter 2): Psychological research

Here you look for relevant scientific research (findings from 3 to 5 research projects) regarding your research question. Who has already scientifically found out what and how, regarding your research interest? What does this mean for your research design? How do these findings influence your research questions or hypothesis? Here you cite from relevant psychological literature and scientific researches. This way you learn much about how psychological research is done well.

With this material you create the first draft of your second chapter of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

3rd Step (Chapter 3): Qualitative expert interviews
Here, you deal with a qualitative research method interviewing at least 3 experts regarding the area of your research question. This has so far proved a very rewarding source of new inspiration and insights. Correctly used you can collect “presents” from colleges who give you their recommendations and experience for free. Usually this will highly influence your research questions and hypotheses and the further approach of your research. With this inspiration, you may want to look at some research that your experts recommended and optimize your chapter 2. And the findings of your qualitative interviews are your chapter 3 of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

4th Step (Chapter 4): Quantitative psychological research method (research design)
In this step you develop on the basis of all your experiences from your previous steps a quantitative questionnaire or you can use a standard psychological questionnaire in order to test your hypotheses. For this questionnaire, it is good to have at least 50 subjects (study participants). In this step, you justify and write in detail about your quantitative methodological approach and discuss precisely how this will help to acquire new scientific knowledge for your research questions and hypotheses. This is your chapter 4 of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

5th Step (Chapter 5): Presentation of your research findings
You present here in detail the results of your research. What have you found out? Which results are significant? What can be interpreted from your results, dates and facts? Here you present them in different charts. This is your chapter 5 of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

6th Step (Chapter 6): Critical discussion of your findings incl. outlook
Here, you will critically reflect the results and methods and give a perspective on what you can do with it and what further research is needed. This is your chapter 6 of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

7th Step (Chapter 7): Summary
This summary should be easy to read and to understand as well for people without a psychological background about what you have found and how this can be used. This is your chapter 7 of your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.

Of course, the requirements are different depending on the desired degree.
The different requirements are defined by the Dublin Descriptors that you can find on the following pages 14/15 in appendix 4 a).
In justified cases it is possible, after the approval of the professor in charge to follow a different design, for your MA or PhD/Dr. thesis.
The doctorate in Clinical Psychology has a special curriculum.
More details on these requirements and the content can be found in the curricula:
MA Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-MA-UCN-Psych.pdf
Doctorate Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-PhD-UCN-Psych.pdf
For writing your research proposal, please see page 20 and our open Moodle course “Research Proposal”: www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028

4. Appendix

a) Dublin Descriptors regarding study requirements …… 13

b) Degree course scheme (syllabus): MA and PhD in Psychology … 15

c) Requirements and guidelines for a Research Proposal ……... 20

4 a) Dublin Descriptors regarding study requirements

Bachelor's degrees are awarded to students who:

- have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in a field of study that builds upon and excels their general secondary education and is typically at a level that, whilst supported by advanced textbooks, includes some aspects that will be informed by knowledge of the forefront of their field of study;
- can apply their knowledge and understanding in a manner that indicates a professional approach to their work or profession and have competences typically demonstrated through devising and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study;
- are able to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to inform judgments that include reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues;
- can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialists;
- have developed learning skills they need to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Master's degrees are awarded to students who:

- have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances the capability associated with Bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context;
- can apply their knowledge and understanding and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study;
- have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments based on incomplete or limited information, that includes reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments;
- can communicate clearly and unambiguously their conclusions and the knowledge and rational underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- passes the learning skills which allow them to continue to study in a manner that is largely self-directed or autonomous.

3. Doctoral degrees are awarded to students who:

- have demonstrated a systematic understanding in a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
- have made a contribution thanks to their original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international referred publication;
- are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;
- can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society;

Differentiating between cycles

Knowledge and understanding	
Bachelor	[is] supported by advanced text books, [with] some aspects informed by knowledge at the forefront of their field of study.
Master	provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas often in a research* context.
Doctorate	[includes] a systematic understanding of their field of study and mastery of the methods of research* associated with that field.

Applying knowledge and understanding	
Bachelor	[through] devising and sustaining arguments.
Master	[through] problem solving abilities [applied] in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts.
Doctorate	[is demonstrated by the] ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research* with scholarly integrity. [is in the context of] a contribution that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work some of which merits national or international refereed publication.

Making judgments	
Bachelor	[involves] gathering and interpreting relevant data.
Master	[demonstrates] the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements based on incomplete data.
Doctorate	[requires being] capable of critical analysis, evaluation and the synthesis of new and complex ideas.

Communication	
Bachelor	[of] information, ideas, problems and solutions.
Master	[of] their conclusions and the underpinning knowledge and principles (restricted scope) they are based upon, to a specialist and non-specialist audiences (monologue).
Doctorate	with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general (dialogue) about their areas of expertise (broad scope).

Learning skills	
Bachelor	have developed those skills needed to study further with a high level of autonomy.
Master	study in a manner that enables them to do so largely self-directed or autonomous.
Doctorate	expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement.

The „Dublin Descriptors“ originate from the Joint Quality Initiative (JQI) in Dublin 23.3.2004. They are part of the academic qualification framework of the European Bologna Processes.

http://paginas.fe.up.pt/~sfeyo/Docs_SFA_Bologna/120_Ref%20Doc_20041018%20%5BJQIG%20Dublin%20Descriptors%5D.pdf

http://ecahe.eu/w/index.php/Framework_for_Qualifications_of_the_European_Higher_Education_Area

4 b) Degree course scheme (syllabus): MA and PhD in Psychology

MA 4 semesters (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	M Mot. Psych.	S Scient. Work-ing	K Basic Knowledge	Ap Applied Area	R Research Methods	Ch Free Choice	Final	Σ
1.	6	4	10	6	4	-	-	30
2.	-	2	-	14	8	6	-	30
3.	-	2	-	10	8	10	-	30
4.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Σ	6	8	10	30	20	16	30	120

First 6 semesters of the integrated MA in 10 semesters (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	M Mot. Psych.	S Scient. Work-ing	K Basic Knowledge	Ap Applied Area	R Research Methods	Ch Free Choice	Final	Σ
1.	16	14	-	-	-	-	-	30
2.	-	2	16	6	-	6	-	30
3.	-	2	12	6	4	6	-	30
4.	-	2	6	8	8	6	-	30
5.	-	2	-	10	12	6	-	30
6.	-	-	-	10	-	10	10	30
Σ	16	22	34	40	24	34	10	180

M = Motivational Psychology & Research Proposal

S = Scientific Working

K = Basic Psychology Knowledge

Ap = Focus Area of Specialisation
(Applied Psychology: N/C/B/PH)

R = Research Methodology

Ch = Free Choice from all kinds of courses

F = Final Thesis

First 8 Semester of the integrated MA in 10 Semester in combination with the MA in 2 Semester (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	M Mot. Psych.	S Scient. Work-ing	K Basic Knowledge	Ap Applied Area	R Rese-arch Methods	Ch Free Choice	Final	Σ
1.	16	14	-	-	-	-	-	30
2.	-	2	16	6	-	6	-	30
3.	-	2	12	6	4	6	-	30
4.	-	2	6	8	8	6	-	30
5.	-	2	-	10	12	6	-	30
6.	-	2	-	14	8	6	-	30
7.	-	2	-	10	8	10	-	30
8.	-	-	-	10	-	10	10	30
Σ	16	26	34	64	40	50	10	240

MA in 2 Semester after 240 ECTS (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	M Mot. Psych.	S Scient. Work-ing	K Basic Knowledge	Ap Applied Area	R Rese-arch Methods	Ch Free Choice	Final	Σ
1.	6	4	-	6	4	10	-	30
2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Σ	6	4	-	6	4	10	30	60

M = Motivational Psychology & Research Proposal

S = Scientific Working

K = Basic Psychology Knowledge

Ap = Focus Area of Specialisation
(Applied Psychology: N/C/B/PH)

R = Research Methodology

Ch = Free Choice from all kinds of courses

F = Final Thesis

PhD 6 semesters (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	M Motiva-tion Coaching.	T Kommunika-tion Tutoring	R Rese-arch Methods	I Imple-men-ta-tion	Fi-nal	Σ
1.	10	8	10	-	2	30
2.	2	10	16	-	2	30
3.	2	5	16	5	2	30
4.	2	3	3	20	2	30
5.	2	6	-	5	17	30
6.	2	8	-	-	20	30
Σ	20	40	45	30	45	180

M = Motivational Psychology and study accompanying Coaching: This area refers to the further development of the Research Proposals incl. the continuing reflection of the study motivation and the Coaching.

T = Tutoring: This area refers to the guidelines of the Dublin Descriptors in the area of Communication and Learning Skills: „Doctoral degrees are awarded to students who can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise and who can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, techno-logical, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society"

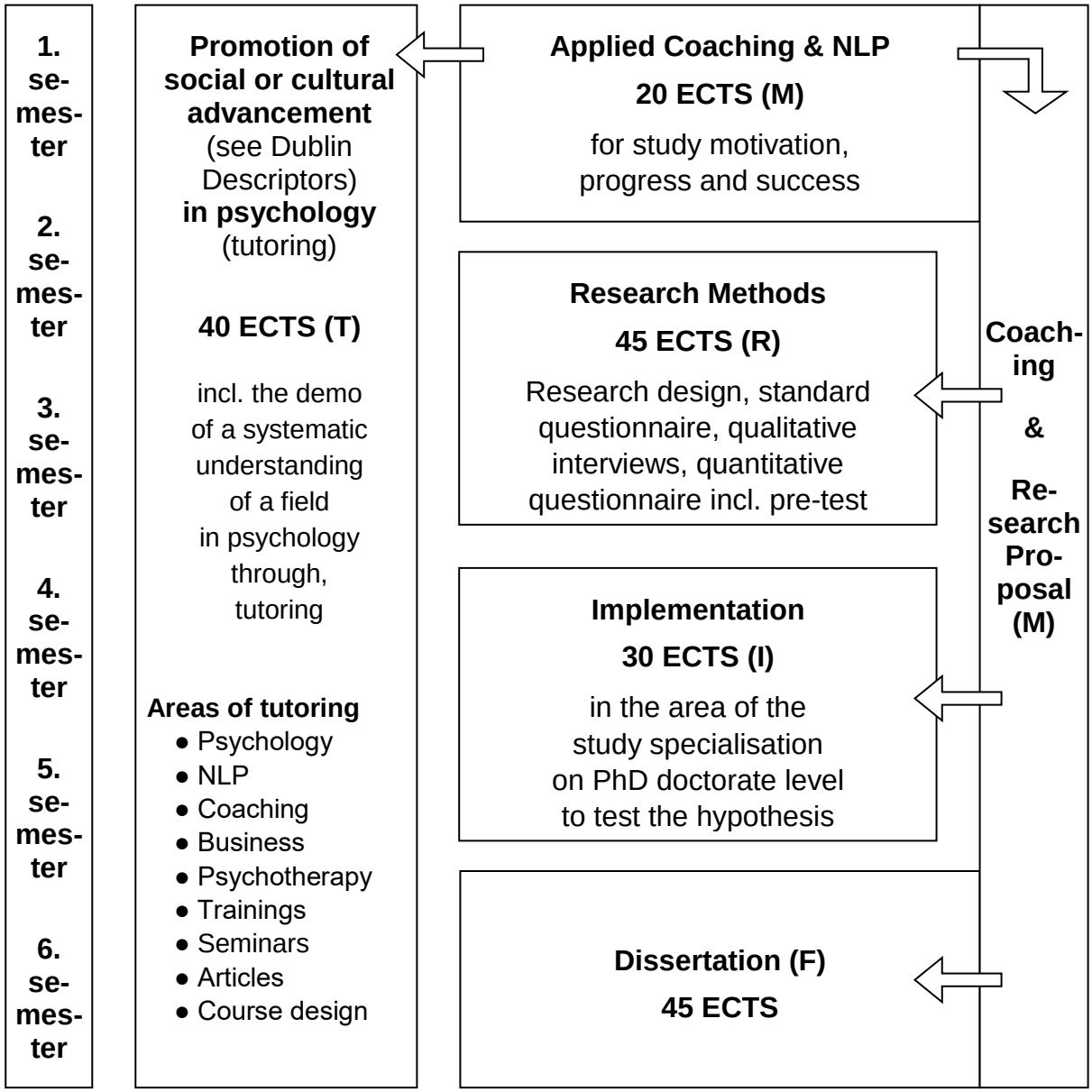
R = Research Methodology: The main focus is here on the development of the research design incl. the conducting of qualitative expert interviews as preparation of a quantitative research and the Pre-test of the quantitative research instruments.

I = Implementation: The main focus here is the conducting of the quantitative research.

F = Final (Dissertation): This is the area of the final writing of the dissertation incl. the defence.

Flow chart of the 6 semesters of the doctoral studies

The following flow chart overview is for general orientation. The fundamental characteristic of a doctorate or PhD programme is a major piece of original research with the aim of producing new knowledge. All other areas of study serve this aim and are connected to this aim. Therefore the following flow chart is only a general frame that can be used flexible in individual cases.



M = Motivational Psychology

T = Tutoring

R = Research Methodology

I = Implementation

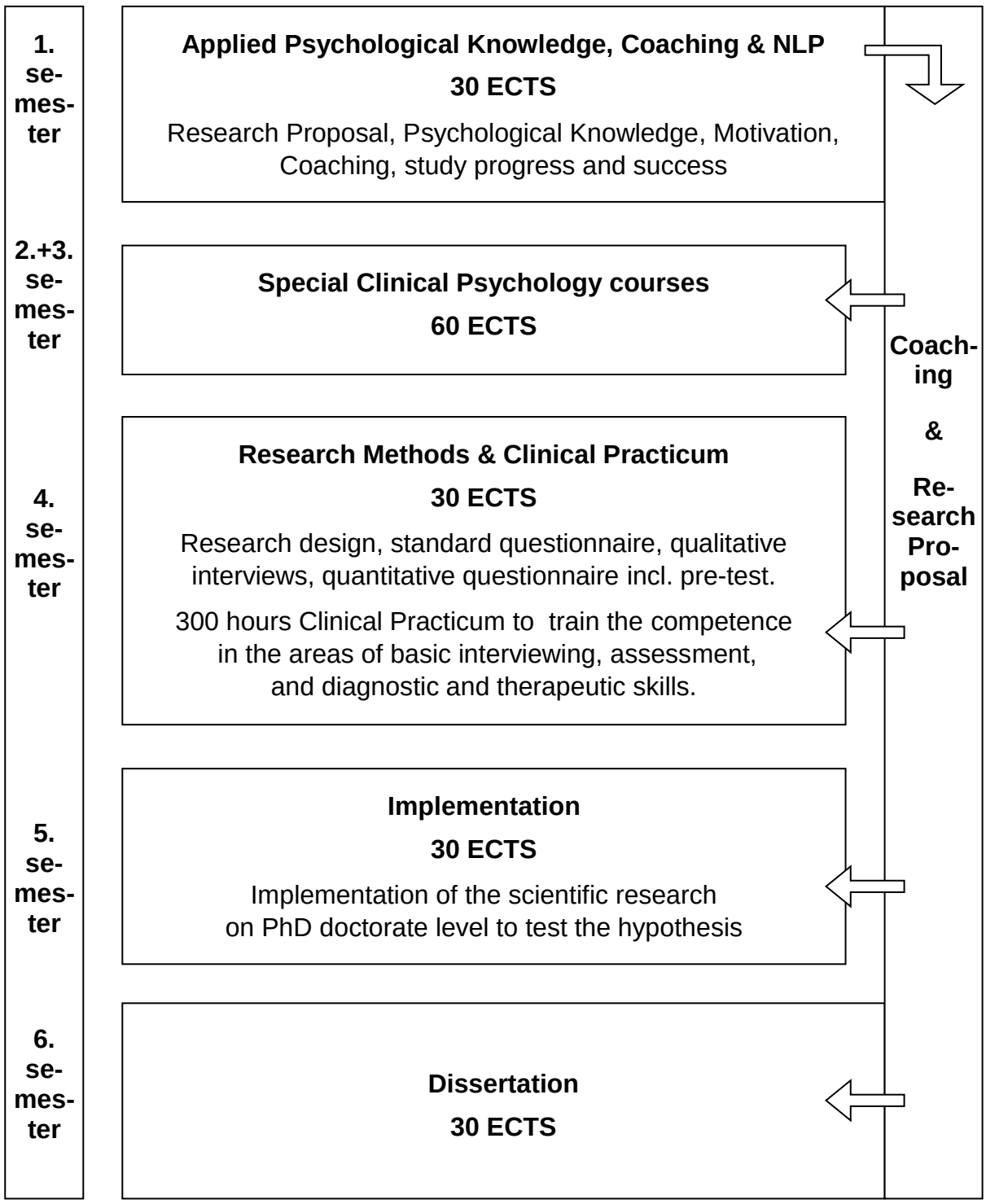
F = Final (Dissertation)

ECTS distribution per semester (example)

1. Sem.:	10 M,	8 T,	10 R,		2 F
2. Sem.:	2 M,	10 T,	16 R,		2 F
3. Sem.:	2 M,	5 T,	16 R,	5 I,	2 F
4. Sem.:	2 M,	3 T,	3 R,	20 I,	2 F
5. Sem.:	2 M,	6 T,		5 I,	17 F
6. Sem.:	2 M,	8 T			20 F
Sum:	20 M,	40 T,	45 R,	30 I,	45 F

Flow chart of the 6 Semesters and ECTS for Clinical Psychology

In contrast to our other PhD programs in Psychology for a PhD in Clinical Psychology special courses in Clinical Psychology and a 300 hours practicum are obligatory.



MA Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-MA-UCN-Psych.pdf
Doctorate Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-PhD-UCN-Psych.pdf
Entrance requirement MA in 4 semesters is a Bachelor degree in Psychology.
Entrance requirement Doctorate (PhD) in 6 semesters is a Master degree in Psychology.
Entrance requirement for Clinical psychology is a Master degree in Clinical Psychology.
With other entrance qualifications, we discuss individually what is possible.

4 c) Research Proposal for MA or PhD/Dr.

From our open Moodle course at: www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028

In a simple form a Research Proposal includes the following:

1. **Problem:** What is a problem where you are highly interested to find out more about possible solutions with the help of psychological knowledge and a scientific research? Please try to describe this problem as specific as possible. Why is it important for you? What are typical symptoms of this problem?
2. **Outcome:** What do you want to achieve with your research? What is your personal gain from studying this topic of this research? What could you expect to be the practical implementations of your studies? Try to think bold. Allow yourself to let your ideas and your imagination "flow" in order to be able to think of any possible outcome and its potentials.
3. **Hypotheses:** Do you have any ideas about the main causes for this problem? What triggers or activates this problem? What could be possible solutions for this problem? Please try to formulate ideas, theories, hypothesises about the problem and possible solutions.
4. **State of the field:** What do you already know about what other researchers have found out about your topic? Where and in which way could you check and find out more about the state of the field? Which scientific books, articles, handouts, movies, radio programs, conferences, further educational programs or websites do you already know of that are somehow connected to your research topic? Which ones would you like to work through in addition?
5. **Methods (including pre-tests):** Which psychological methods do you already know that you could use (e.g.: experiments, expert interviews, questionnaires)? Do you have any experience with the use of such methods?
6. **Title:** What is currently the draft of a title or possible title for your research project? Allow yourself to dream about it, and make sure which phrasing creates a certain resonance within yourself. This is about trusting your own intuition and creativity, enjoying and knowing that everything is changeable and develops furthermore over time in form of regular adjustments at the end of each semester.
7. **Schedule:** Milestones – set yourself milestones in order to structure you research. When would you like to reach what exactly? What are the needed steps from your point of view?
8. **Short summary** (abstract): How can you summarize the key facts very briefly within a maximum of 15 lines?

There are more details about how to write a research proposal in psychological textbooks, in the internet and at our open Moodle course: **www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028**

For the application of admittance in our study program the above 8 points in about 5 pages are sufficient. Please send your Research Proposal for review with your CV to the International School of Psychology at the UCN: **campus.berlin@ucn.edu.ni**

The website with more info: www.ucn.edu.ni/posgrados/international-school-of-psychology

The application form and all required documents: www.in-ici.net/ucn-reg.php