



Universidad Central de Nicaragua

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY @ UCN

www.ucn.edu.ni/posgrados/international-school-of-psychology

Coaching, Business, NLPsy, Health, Psychotherapy, Clinical Psychology

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

1. General approach of our MA & PhD/Dr. study programs	2
2. Guidelines regarding the 7 chapters of the MA or PhD/Dr. final	3
3. Checklist for the study procedure and the 7 chapters of the final... 5	5
3.1 Scientific overview and background (~ 20 pages)	5
3.2 Scientific literature (~ 20 pages)	6
3.3 Expert interviews (qualitative methodology, ~ 20 pages)	7
3.4 Research design (quantitative methodology, ~ 20 pages).....	8
3.5 Findings (~ 20 pages text plus x pages figures and tables)	9
3.6 Critical reflection of your findings (~ 20 pages).....	10
3.7 Summary (~ 7 pages)	11
4. Appendix	
4.1 Dublin Descriptors: differences BA (Lic.), MA, PhD/Dr.....	12
4.2 Degree course scheme (syllabus): MA and PhD in Psychology.....	14
4.3 Research Proposal: Requirements and guidelines	16

Possible focus areas of specialization are: Health, Psychotherapy, Clinical Psychology, Coaching Psychology, Business Psychology (I/O), and Neuro Linguistic Psychology (NLPsy).

MA Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-MA-UCN-Psych.pdf

PhD./Dr. Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-PhD-UCN-Psych.pdf

The different requirements in extend and depth for bachelor (Licenciado), master and doctoral candidates are defined in the Dublin Descriptors (see appendix 4.1).

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



1. General approach of our 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 and 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-term 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 closely connected to the development of this research project

This way, essential findings from the fields of motivational psychology and neuro-science are applied to the successful learning 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 achieved exactly at that point of time when it is needed for the individual 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 approach 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.

At the end of each semester the student hands in the achieved part of the corresponding chapter of his final. Each chapter includes proof of his ability to apply the psychological knowledge required for this part of his studies (see appendix 4.1). This is the basis in the semester final examination and the ECTS. In case that the competence of the required psychology knowledge is not demonstrated sufficiently in the text of the final, then we examine this separately in the semester final examination or through extra examinations, including writing scientific articles, presenting at conferences, offering psychology orientated trainings, tutoring other students, or creating Moodle courses.

In addition, the students' 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 he updates his PowerPoint and Mind-Map that are pregnant marks of his progress and development of his research project. This in the end contributes to the presentation of his defence.

On campus parts are not needed in these distant learning study programs.

2. Guidelines regarding the 7 chapters of the MA or PhD/Dr. final

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 final.

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

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

In your chapter 1 (~ 20 pages) you write (besides other parts, like the underlying problem and expected benefits) about the application and connection of relevant basic knowledge from Psychology and the chosen focus area on your chosen research topic and hypotheses.

This way you learn in our approach psychology knowledge (standard Psychology and focus area) effective, efficient and fast for you have a problem or challenge that you are highly motivated to solve (Research Proposal). For this you search in standard psychology knowledge: **General Psychology, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Industrial Psychology, Neuropsychology, Communication Psychology, Differential Psychology...** and in relevant knowledge from the chosen focus area for relevant information in accordance with your research question.

This is practical psychology applied first hand. With the basic ideas of your research proposal and what you find out about relevant psychology knowledge you already create 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 psychology knowledge e.g. by: writing scientific articles, presenting at conferences, offering psychology orientated trainings, tutoring other students, or creating Moodle courses. This is honored with credit points (ECTS).

2nd Step (Chapter 2): Psychological scientific literature

Here you look for relevant scientific researches (findings from at least 3 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 your second chapter (~ 20 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

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.

The findings of your qualitative interviews are your chapter 3 (~ 20 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

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 (~ 20 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

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 (~ 20 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

6th Step (Chapter 6): Critical discussion of your findings incl. outlook

Here, you will critically reflect the results and used methods and give a perspective on what you can do with it (benefits) and what further research you recommend.

This is your chapter 6 (~ 20 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

7th Step (Chapter 7): Summary

This summary should be easy to read and to understand also for people without a psychological background so that they can use the benefits of what you have found in your research.

This is your chapter 7 (~ 7 pages) of your MA or PhD/Dr. final.

If your final is not written in English, you must provide in your final this summary in English as well.

Of course, the requirements are different depending on the desired degree.

The different requirements in extend and depth for bachelor (Licenciado), master and doctoral candidates are defined by the Dublin Descriptors that you can find in appendix 4.1.

In justified cases it is possible, after written approval of the professor in charge, to follow a different design for your MA or PhD/Dr. final. The doctorate in Clinical Psychology has a special curriculum.

More details on the 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 appendix 4.3 and our open Moodle course “Research Proposal”: www.in-ici.net/moodle/course/view.php?id=1028

The following 7 pages provide a checklist for writing each of the 7 chapters of your final.

3. Checklist for the study procedure and the 7 chapters of the final

Checklist Chapter 1: Scientific overview and background (Introduction)

Topic (~ 20 pages)	Remarks	date
1.1 Introduce the topic and research motivation.		
1.2 Describe and explain clearly the problem and the benefits that you expect from the research.		
1.3 Define precisely the most important terms (especially those in the title and hypotheses).		
1.4 Explain the status quo of the field and describe actual findings that you already know.		
1.5 Describe the connections to the most important psychology areas and the chosen focus area.		
1.6 Quote from primary literature. Use 3 kinds of quotation: a) Indirect citations within the text without quotation marks b) Within the text with quotation marks (With page numbers!) c) Indented quotes if the text has more than 40 words With longer quotes, express before the quote the meaning with your own words, then use the quote as prove, and after the quote express the connection between your own words before the quote and the quote.		
1.7 Provide the first wording of your hypotheses + define main terms.		
1.8 Give a preview of chapter 2 to 4.		
1.9 You prove your ability of scientific working, quoting and formatting (s. APA) in the first chapter or we ask for a home work.		
1.10 You prove your ability of the "Development of hypotheses" in the first 4 chapters or we ask for a home work on this topic.		
1.11 Provide a PowerPoint about your research (about 7 slides, each with max. 7 lines with max. 7 words) and a MindMap.		
1.12 Send this checklist with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the first chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 2: Scientific Literature

Topic (~ 20 pages)	Remarks	date
2.1 Find scientific literature that is relevant for your own planned research. 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 Summarize, explain, cite and discuss a few professional articles (preferably peer reviewed) and the most important findings of at least 3 research studies (incl. quotes – see 1.6) that are relevant for your research topic and connect these findings to your own planned research.		
2.3 Describe consequences of your literature search on the further development of your hypotheses and explain the changes.		
2.4 Check in your chapter 1 the part of 1.3 of the checklist regarding the definition of the used terms.		
2.5 Provide summaries of these 3 research studies for fellow students on Moodle.		
2.6 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
2.7 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the second chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 3: Expert Interviews (qualitative methodology)

Topic (~ 20 pages)	Remarks	date
3.1 Describe in this chapter your expectations of the use of Expert (qualitative) Interviews.		
3.2 Describe and justified your selection of experts and discuss pro and cons of the selection. Discuss with your academic advisor your planned selection and the central main question for your experts.		
3.3 Describe the results of your pre-test of expert interviews in the final and discuss it with the academic advisor before the final conducting of the expert interviews.		
3.4 Summarize, explain and discuss the results of your expert interviews in this chapter. Cite and explain examples.		
3.5 Explain your learn effects and the influence of the expert interviews on the development of your hypotheses. Described and justified any change in your hypotheses. Check in your chapter 1 the part of 1.3 of the checklist regarding the definition of the used terms.		
3.6 You prove your ability of conducting qualitative expert interviews (incl. the evaluation procedure) in this chapter or we ask for a home work to clarify differences between qualitative expert interviews (incl. evaluation procedure) and quantitative research method (self-designed questionnaire and standard questionnaire).		
3.7 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
3.8 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the third chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 4: Research Design (quantitative methodology)

Topic (~ 20 pages)	Remarks	date
4.1 Summarize your planned quantitative methodological approach – your research design.		
4.2 Reformulate your hypotheses so that they are statistically testable. Describe and justify your chosen test instruments.		
4.3 Explained in detail your test instruments and your reasons for choosing them. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and the needed sample size, including the eventually needed control group.		
4.4 Provide and discuss the detailed plan of the intended statistical analysis of the data, incl. measure of central tendency, deviation, and appropriate inference statistic (significance tests).		
4.5 Discuss in detail how each question of the chosen or self-developed questionnaire is justified by the hypotheses (incl. +/- and repeated questions) and as well by the cited scientific literature and the results of the expert interviews.		
4.6 Describe how you plan to find the subjects for your research and discuss pros and cons.		
4.7 Conduct a pre-test and describe the influence on the final research design. You prove your ability of conducting a pre-test in this chapter or we ask for a home work on this topic regarding the necessity of a pre-test.		
4.8 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
4.9 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the 4 th chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 5: Findings

Topic (~ 20 pages text plus x pages figures & tables)	Remarks	date
5.1 Describe in the introduction of this chapter the concrete circumstances of the data collection, so that others could repeat the research.		
5.2 Summarize and explain in the introduction of this chapter the used statistical formula for the tables and graphs and discuss their usefulness in connection with the research question and hypotheses.		
5.3 Present your findings useful structured with tables and graphs (APA standard) in accordance with the used research instruments (questionnaire) and your research question and hypotheses.		
5.4 Provide and interpret the measures of significance, the implications of descriptions, and the inference statistic.		
5.5 You prove your ability of using the statistical methods in this chapter or we ask for a home work.		
5.5 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
5.6 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the 5 th chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 6: Critical reflection of your findings

Topic (~ 20 pages)	Remarks	date
6.1 Reflect critically your methodological approach, the used statistical methods and the findings and discuss alternative explanations of special relevant findings.		
6.2 Presented and discuss critically further conclusions and alternative interpretations.		
6.3 Discuss how the findings can be used in practice and provide recommendations.		
6.4 Provide recommendations for further research.		
6.5 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
6.6 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the 6 th chapter, to your academic advisor for approval, before you start with the next chapter.		

Checklist Chapter 7: Summary

Topic (~ 10 pages)*	Remarks	date
7.1 Check, that the hypotheses are included in the Abstract and in the Summary.		
7.2 You prove that you understand the difference between the Abstract at the beginning of the final and the Summary in this chapter or we ask for a 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		
7.5 Update your PowerPoint and Mind-Map.		
7.5 Send this checklist page with short explanations (Remarks), + the continuously developed PowerPoint & Mind-Map, + the 7 th chapter, to your academic advisor for approval.		

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

4.1 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

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

4.2.1: MA 4 semesters (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	F Hyp. & Final	K Basic Know.	Ap Applied Area	R Research Methods	Ch Free Choice	Σ
1.	6	10	6	4	4	30
2.	2	-	14	8	6	30
3.	2	-	10	8	10	30
4.	30	-	-	-	-	30
Σ	40	10	30	20	20	120

F = Hypotheses Development & Final: This area refers in the first 3 semester to the step by step development of the Hypotheses through the description of the Research Project (chapter 1) findings in the Literature Research (chapter 2), the Expert Interviews (chapter 3) and the process of developing statistically testable hypotheses (chapter 4). This includes the development of the Research Proposal, Motivational Psychology and final semester exams. In the last semester this area refers to the writing of the final incl. the final exam.

K = Basic Psychology Knowledge: This area refers to the deepening in psychology knowledge in 3 to 5 basic psychology areas that are relevant for the chosen research, like: General Psychology, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Business / Work / Industrial Psychology (I/O), Differential & Personality Psychology, Biological Psychology, and Philosophy of Science & Ethics.

Ap = Applied Psychology: This area refers to the chosen Focus Area of Specialisation: Health, Psychotherapy, Clinical Psychology, Coaching Psychology, Business Psychology (I/O), and Neuro Linguistic Psychology (NLPsy). It also includes the requirements expressed in the Dublin Descriptors of: "can communicate clearly and unambiguously their conclusions and the knowledge and rational underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences". Students can demonstrate this in their final or by writing scientific articles, presenting at conferences, offering psychology orientated trainings, tutoring other students, or creating Moodle courses.

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.

Ch = Free Choice: from all kinds of academic courses like e.g. Biological Psychology, Pedagogical Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Philosophy, Computer Science,...

MA Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-MA-UCN-Psych.pdf

Entrance requirement MA in 4 semesters is a Bachelor degree in Psychology.

With other entrance qualifications, we discuss individually what is possible.

On campus parts are not needed in this distant learning study program.

4.2.2: PhD 6 semesters (ECTS per area per semester)

Sem.	F Hypo- theses & Final	D Demonstr. Psychology Knowledge	R Re- search Methods	I Imple- men- tation	Σ
1.	5	10	15	-	30
2.	5	10	15	-	30
3.	5	10	15	-	30
4.	5	10	-	15	30
5.	15	-	-	15	30
6.	30	-	-	-	30
Σ	65	40	45	30	180

F = Hypotheses Development & Final (Dissertation): This area refers in the first 4 semester to the step by step development of the Hypotheses through the description of the Research Project (chapter 1) findings in the Literature Research (chapter 2), the Expert Interviews (chapter 3) and the process of developing statistically testable hypotheses (chapter 4). This includes the development of the Research Proposal, Motivational Psychology and final semester exams. In the last 2 semester this area refers to the final writing of the dissertation incl. the defence.

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.

D = Demonstrating Psychology Knowledge: 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, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society”. This can be done e.g.: by writing scientific articles, presenting at conferences, offering psychology orientated trainings, tutoring other students, or creating Moodle courses.

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.

Doctorate Curriculum: www.ucn.edu.ni/media/2016/07/ISP-Curriculum-PhD-UCN-Psych.pdf

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. At the moment we only offer in Clinical psychology the writing of the dissertation. The required special coursework for Clinical Psychology can be accepted by credit transfer.

With other entrance qualifications, we discuss individually what is possible.

The Focus area of the dissertation (Health, Psychotherapy, Clinical Psychology, Coaching Psychology, Business Psychology, and Neuro Linguistic Psychology) is determined by the chosen research topic and the practical experience of the Doctoral Candidate.

On campus parts are not needed in this distant learning study program.

4.3 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, hypothesisises 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