

## **Doctoral Program in Economics**

### **3E205 Thesis Project**

#### **Instructions**

##### **1. Definition and goals**

The course *3E205 Thesis Project* is the major curricular unit in the fourth semester of the Doctoral Program in Economics at FEP.

*3E205 Thesis Project* plays a key role in the student's transition from the course component of the Doctoral Program to the period of development of the doctoral thesis.

That role is due to (i) its position in the last semester of the course component of the Doctoral Program, and (ii) its contents, functioning and goals.

The contents and functioning of *3E205 Thesis Project*, as detailed in (2), are designed toward the ultimate goal of determining whether the student has enough scientific maturity to start on working on his/her doctoral thesis.

When such maturity is confirmed, the student has a positive grade, according to (3).

As the course component of the Program is completed, the Scientific Board of the Doctoral Program will then consider the student's grades (i) in *3E205 Thesis Project*, and (ii) overall in the course component; and will deliberate authorizing, or not, the student to register his doctoral thesis theme/adviser and enroll in *3DECON3T Thesis*.

As detailed in (4), the *3E205 Thesis Project* teacher may be the thesis adviser.

##### **2. Functioning and Contents**

By the end of the third semester of the Doctoral Program, the student and his/her tutor – the member of the Doctoral Program Scientific Board that monitors the student during the course component of the Program – shall find a teacher suited for advising the student in the research that he/she envisages for the doctoral thesis.

The teacher may be a member of FEP's staff or a Professor in a Portuguese or foreign University.

The student will take the course *3E205 Thesis Project* during the fourth semester with the assigned teacher.

The teacher will guide the student through readings on the subject envisaged for the thesis and will monitor the student's progress by means of periodic meetings similar to thesis adviser/student meetings.

The outputs to be delivered during the course shall, in principle, include two pieces:

(i) a review essay on the course subject; and (ii) a plan of an hypothetical doctoral thesis on the subject;

(i) the review essay shall certify that the student is able to ascertain the state of the art in a given subject; it should also show that the student has actually made some progress towards understanding the state of the art on the subject he/she has chosen, at least at one level (theoretical; technical; empirical; computational);

(ii) the plan of an hypothetical doctoral thesis on the subject shall certify that the student has the scientific maturity to sketch a research proposal; in particular, it shows the ability of the student to detect research that will potentially contribute to scientific knowledge.

The whole process of preparation and attendance of *3E205 Thesis Project* may occur, exceptionally, at a later semester, in the case of students that failed a timely approval in courses of the first through third semester.

If a student fails to obtain approval in *3E205 Thesis Project* he/she shall repeat the course, with the adequate changes in subject and/or teacher decided in accordance with his/her tutor.

### **3. Assessment and Grades**

The teacher of *3E205 Thesis Project* shall assess the student considering his/her performance in the meetings and the merit of the outputs delivered during the course.

The teacher has full autonomy for defining the assessment and grading criteria.

By the end of the semester, the teacher sends the Scientific Board of the Program a brief report with the grade – on the standard 0 to 20 scale – and a well founded assessment of the student's performance. As an annex, the output pieces referred to in (2) shall be appended.

In case of failure, the report shall not only clearly explain its reasons, but also specify conditions deemed necessary for the student to eventually obtain approval in *3E205 Thesis Project*.

### **4. The course *3E205 Thesis Project* and the doctoral thesis**

In the case of approval in *3E205 Thesis Project*, the Scientific Board of the Doctoral Program issues a Statement on the ability of the student to enroll in *3DECON3T Thesis*, registering the thesis theme and his/her adviser. The Statement considers the whole course component, attaching a larger weight to *3E205 Thesis Project*, given its importance as an indicator of the student's capability of writing a doctoral thesis.

If the student is allowed to proceed to the doctoral thesis, he/she shall choose an adviser, in accordance with his/her tutor. The adviser may be, but is not necessarily, the teacher of *3E205 Thesis Project*.

Likewise, the doctoral thesis subject may be the one studied in *3E205 Thesis Project* but is not necessarily; and it is also not mandatory that the doctoral thesis is outlined according to the thesis plan referred to in (2).

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The Scientific Board of the Doctoral Program in Economics