

## **Regional and Social Development**

### **Objectives of the study programme**

The aim of the doctoral study programme Regional and Social Development is to prepare high-quality experts in the field of sustainable regional development and rural development through education in advanced areas of relevant knowledge in economic fields (70%) and sociology (30%) and contemporary methods of scientific research in these fields, including the social aspects of this development. The aim is thus to ensure education within the framework of an interdisciplinary approach for the students, which will lead them to the art of conducting independent and highly specialized social scientific research based on the latest theoretical knowledge from the field of economics and more broadly from the social sciences (sociology) and on this basis to formulate the necessary practical and political recommendations, especially from the perspective of socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of development activities in a local, national and global context.

### **Profile of the graduate of the programme**

The graduate can apply the latest theoretical knowledge in both the economic and social pillars of sustainability, mainly from the field of economics (70%) and sociology (30%) framed by the interdisciplinary nature of sustainable regional and rural development. For this, the graduate adopts the contemporary theoretical discourse, the latest apparatus of research results and the related discussion in national and international contexts in areas connected with the socio-cultural and socio-economic context of regional and rural development. The graduate masters innovative methodological procedures, which can be applied in advanced types of independent or team social-scientific research, the results of which can be published not only in the form of research reports but also in publications listed in world-renowned databases (Web of Science, Scopus). The graduate has experience in creative activity in an international environment and has mastered the language and skills with this use of professional language in the academic and application spheres. The graduate is competent to formulate practical recommendations, and measures based on and supported by empirical data from research. Graduates find employment in the academic and research spheres, where they conduct both teaching activities and their own research activities. Another area of application is state and public administration bodies, where they act as experts capable of conducting independent research providing data necessary for the formation of practical measures and for the preparation of various documents (strategies, plans) that are needed from the point of view of regional and rural development. In this way, they can also work in non-governmental organizations and in local action groups participating in community-led local development and thus work in the field of social and territorial development. Last but not least, they are also used in international development organization organizations and agencies (e.g. UN FAO).

Typical job positions of graduates:

Independent researcher in the field of regional or rural development

Researcher in the field of regional and rural development

Independent specialist in public administration bodies dealing with regional development or rural development

### **Study requirements**

The study obligations of a DSP Regional and Social Development student are based on the internal regulations of the CZU in Prague, "Study and Exam Rules for Study in Doctoral Study Programmes of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague", dated July 11, 2018 (hereinafter "Study and Exam Rules"), and Rector's Directive No. 2/2018 "Credit system of CULS doctoral degree programmes" (hereinafter "Credit System"), which evaluate the study obligations of students in DSP credits according to the ECTS system. These documents in both the Czech and English languages are linked above. The study is based on an approved individual study plan (ISP). The ISP must be compiled to include all the following study obligations and to ensure that the student has obtained at least 240 credits. The following are compulsory and optional study obligations and their recommended inclusion in individual years of study. Credit ratings are given in the Credit System.

#### **Dissertation methodology**

Students submit their dissertation methodology after approval by the supervisor within 12 months from the start of the study. The methodology is defended and contains mainly the research plan of the dissertation. See the "Other study obligations" section for more details.

#### **Academic writing**

A compulsory subject that will be taught in the 1st year of study, which aims to increase the student's ability to use English at a professional or scientific level, as it will be necessary to work with foreign language literature, undertake internships abroad, communicate with partners abroad, produce outputs and present results of the undertaken work in English, etc. The course will be taught in the form of contact seminars in English. Teaching will be conducted by a teacher with language competence at the level of a native speaker who carries out their own research activities and has experience in publishing in high-quality scientific journals.

### **Methodological seminar**

The seminar focused on methods of scientific work, work with information sources, ethics of scientific work, presentation of results of research activities and their evaluation, obtaining resources for research realization and other key topics that will enable the student to move from master's level to doctoral level. The seminar is included in the 1st year of study and the graduate obtains the necessary knowledge for the creation of the doctoral thesis methodology.

### **Compulsory subjects**

A student of DSP Regional and Social Development usually completes the compulsory in the first or second year of study subjects that form the basic theoretical block called "Contemporary theoretical and methodological schools, directions and paradigms in regional and rural development". These subjects are:

*Contemporary Theoretical Issues in Regional and Rural Development*

*Linking sociological and economic theories with the practice of advanced research methods in the field of regional and rural development*

### **Optional subjects**

Depending on the profile of their dissertation and on the ECTS credits obtained, students also choose a maximum of 4 subjects from the range of optional subjects, which are focused on the latest knowledge in particular areas related to the socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of regional development or rural development. This choice takes place in the "Socioeconomic and sociocultural context of regional/rural development and its practical implications" block of subjects. Thus, DSP Regional and Social Development students can take a maximum of 4 compulsory optional subjects, which they choose mainly from the following offer (after approval by the Doctoral Programme Board, it can also be other subjects, mainly from other faculties of CZU, other universities in the Czech Republic or abroad):

*Advanced quantitative methods in social science research*

*Development studies in a social anthropological perspective*

*Contemporary management theories in application to regional and rural development*

*New trends in economic policies in the projection of rural areas and regions*

*Models for resolving conflict situations in territorial self-governing units*

*Regional context of the global economy*

*Social networks, actors and institutions in regional and rural development*

*Transition theory on innovations and its projection in rural and regional development*

*Sustainable development management through current project management*

With the consent of the supervisor and the approval of the Doctoral Programme Board the student can also complete another optional subject from the offered subjects accredited by the DPS CZU or other higher education institutions in the Czech Republic offering doctoral studies programs in the Czech Republic or abroad.

Successful completion of compulsory and optional subjects is conditioned by the creation of at least one of the following outputs:

- a) Scientific article ready for publication
- b) Critical analysis of published work of a renowned author
- c) Overview study of a selected scientific area
- d) New application of the selected scientific procedure

### **Literature Review for Dissertation**

Foundation for the state doctoral exam, which includes especially the literature review and content of the upcoming dissertation. The thesis is reviewed, and the debate on the thesis is part of the state doctoral examination.

### **State Doctoral Exam**

In accordance with the Study and Exam Rules, the state doctoral exam in DSP Regional and Social Development consists of three parts:

- professional debate on the submitted theses of the dissertation and the problems dealt with in the dissertation;

- debate on a selected area of the basic theoretical block of *The current theoretical and methodological school, directions and paradigms in regional and rural development*, which includes the following topics:
  - *Selected economic and managerial theories in the sustainable development of regions and rural areas*
  - *Selected sociological theories and their connection with economic aspects of rural development and regions*
  - *Reflections of methods in research in regional development (from the battle for the method in economics to contemporary polyphony research methods)*
- discussions on a selected range of subjects of the profiling basis, which are the content of the profiling block *Socio-economic and socio-cultural context of regional/rural development and its practical implications*, which includes the following topics:
  - *Changes in management approach in regional and rural development*
  - *Different types of capital and their application in regional development*
  - *Socio-anthropological aspects of regional and rural development*
  - *Innovation and innovative potentials of regions*
  - *The socio-cultural and socio-economic context of agriculture, food and food and applications for rural development and regions*
  - *Globalization and localization and impact on regional development*

The subject areas for discussion in both subjects and their updating are approved by the Doctoral Programme Board.

#### **Dissertation Defence**

In the fourth year of study, students focus primarily on completing their dissertations. Their obligation is to submit an application for the defence of the dissertation so that the thesis is defended within the standard period of study.

#### **Publication activity requirements**

The creative activity of the students is irreplaceable and is evaluated annually by the supervisor, the head of the department and the Doctoral Degree Programme Board during regular attestations of the students. The minimum requirements for the creative activity of students in DSP Regional and Social Development are:

- 1) The DSP student must be the first author of at least one publication published or accepted for publication in a Web of Knowledge journal with a non-zero Impact factor index (IF) assigned in the publication year of the publication or in the SCOPUS journal with a non-zero Scientific Journal Ranking Index assigned (SJR) in the year of publication. Without fulfilling this requirement, the student is not allowed to defend his/her dissertation.
- 2) The DSP student must present at least once a year the results of their work at a recognized professional forum, scientific conference, symposium or seminar. Compliance with this obligation is confirmed by the supervisor and is also subject to evaluation by the Doctoral Degree Programme Board within the framework of the annual attestation.

Beyond these minimum requirements, a student can include other creative activities in his ISP (own research activity financed by research grants, preparation of other publications for journals listed in WoS or SCOPUS, participation in international conferences, etc.). It is assumed that the student will at least participate in grants from CZU's internal grant agencies and that he will participate in the creative activities of his supervisor, thereby acquiring the necessary creative skills.

The above-mentioned activities are part of the ISP and are evaluated with credits according to the Credit System (the preparation of grants and their solutions are evaluated indirectly, through the publications created).

#### **Requirements for study visits**

The individual study plan must include a foreign study visit of a total duration of at least one month. The recommended inclusion of this activity is in the second or third year of study. After approval by the supervisor and head of the department, all study stays are registered in the university information system of CZU and evaluated by the number of credits according to the Credit System. According to the Study and Exam Rules, the fulfilment of this obligation can be replaced by the student's active participation in solving an international research project with results published or presented abroad. Fulfilment of the requirement to complete the internship by this, in addition to the supervisor and the head of the department, the subject board also approves the form. After approval by the branch council, the DSP student will receive the number of credits according to the Credit System.

### Other study obligations

#### **Dissertation methodology defence**

During the first year of study, each DSP student of Regional and Social Development elaborates on the Dissertation Methodology. The Dissertation Methodology mainly includes the research plan of the dissertation and the student elaborates it using knowledge from the Methodological Seminar, completed subjects, self-study and consultations with the supervisor. The framework curriculum of the dissertation is approved by the Doctoral Degree Programme Board. The student submits the dissertation methodology after being approved by the supervisor within one year from the start of the study. The methodology is reviewed by one member of the Doctoral Degree Programme Board and the DSP student then defends it in front of a committee set by the Doctoral Degree Programme Board. Successful defence of the Dissertation Methodology is a necessary precondition for progress to the second year of study.

#### **Teaching Practice**

According to the Study and Exam Rules, part of the study in DSP Regional and Social Development is a pedagogical practice primarily used to develop presentation experience. This internship usually takes place for at least four semesters, with an average of four hours per week in one academic year. The total involvement of a student in the full-time form of study in classes may exceed six hours per week only with their written consent. Exceptions to this pedagogical practice are permitted by the head of the trainee workplace by agreement with the supervisor.