



**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**  
**ECTS Information Pack**

Specialty "Design and Visual Arts"  
Educational qualification: PhD degree  
Form of education: regular  
Duration of study: 3 /three / or 4 /four/ years

**QUALIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

**1. GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

Doctoral Program in *DESIGN AND PLASTIC ARTS* is intended for graduates of the educational qualification Master's degree who are interested in scientific research in the field of fine arts.

The training of doctoral students is provided by the Faculty of Arts, Department of Fine Arts in accordance with modern scientific achievements.

The Faculty of Arts at the South-West University Neofit Rilski provides training for doctoral students within the framework of existing traditions, experience and a base for research, education and artistic activity. The training of doctoral students is aimed at research in the field of various branches of fine art - respectively fashion design, graphic design, plastic arts.

**2. OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

The goal of the doctoral program in *DESIGN AND PLASTIC ARTS* is the training of highly qualified specialists and experts in the field of fine arts, by expanding the fundamental theoretical and professional training and developing a dissertation on a current problem for science and public practice.

**3. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The doctoral student in *DESIGN AND PLASTIC ARTS* is preparing for: independent research activity in the field of fine arts. The main emphases laid down in the curriculum of the doctoral program in *DESIGN AND PLASTIC ARTS* are related to the upgrading of the knowledge already obtained in the field, as well as the acquisition of the necessary educational, scientific and creative experience of the doctoral students.

Education in regular form and independent training is six semesters / three years, and for part-time - eight semesters / 4 years.

The educational process is planned according to an individual curriculum including educational, research and pedagogical activity.

*The Individual Work Plan* of the doctoral student is drawn up by the doctoral student and his supervisor, accepted by the Departmental Council and approved by the Faculty Council. It determines the direction of the doctoral studies and details the activities to be carried out by year.

The planned activities in the individual study plan are also divided into semesters and classroom and extracurricular activities are planned for them. Five compulsory and optional subjects are studied.

The doctoral student acquires the right to defend his dissertation after completing the activities provided for in the curriculum and fulfilling the criteria and indicators for reporting the readiness to acquire the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

#### **4. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCES ACQUIRED ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK**

##### **4.1 Knowledge (theoretical and/or factual)**

During the training process, the doctoral student acquires the following knowledge:

- performing critical analyzes in the field of visual arts and synthesizing new artistic and authorial ideas;
- mastering the methodology of scientific research in the field of fine art;
- owns ability for expansion and amendment on existing ones knowledge in the field of fine arts in terms of design and plastic arts, as well as the interaction of visual arts with interdisciplinary scientific fields such as performing arts, applied visual arts, applied digital arts, etc.;

##### **4.2. Skills (cognitive and/or practical)**

During the training process, the doctoral student acquires the following skills:

- to create and manage scientific and creative centers related to design and plastic arts, etc.;
- to form creative teams to create design and plastic works;
- to solve complex problems in the field of visual arts through new methods and approaches;
- to find, extract, arrange, synthesize and evaluate information from various sources;
- to solve and overcome critical problems in the field of fine art and innovations in design and plastic arts;
- for analysis and classification of works of fine art;
- knows methods and means, anticipates changes and problems in the field of visual arts, abstracts from the environment and thinks creatively and innovatively;
- to develop and put forward innovative ideas for development;

##### **4.3. Independence and Responsibility**

- creates and interprets new knowledge in the field of design and plastic arts, and other related scientific fields through own research or other scientific activity;
- has the ability to assess the need for new publications in the field of fine arts and specifically in design and plastic arts through the new knowledge gained;

- possesses the ability to analyze and self-evaluate his research work in the field of visual arts;
- possesses ability to compile, design, implement and adapt a modern research process in the field of design and plastic arts with relevant scientific contributions.

#### **4.4. Competence to learn**

- capacity for systematic acquisition, understanding and selection of knowledge from modern scientific achievements in the field of design and plastic arts.

#### **4.5. Communicative and Social Competences**

- personal responsibility, independence, initiative in extreme conditions and practical environment;
- rich professional culture and communication skills;
- individual competences for conceptualizing, designing and generating new knowledge in the field of design and plastic arts;
- personal information awareness and facilitation of professional contacts with Bulgarian and foreign scientists;
- social activity, adaptability and competitiveness on the labor market, providing realization in specific social conditions;
- ability to work in team;

#### **4.6. Professional competences**

- methodological competences in the field of scientific research knowledge;
- competencies in the field of methodology, methodology and instrumentation of scientific and specialized research;
- professional skills for enriching theory in the field of design and plastic arts;
- professional competences for independent teaching and expert activity in the field of visual arts;
- ability to continue research in the field of design and plastic arts at increasingly complex levels, contributing to the development of new ideas and approaches.

### **5. AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION**

- independent research activity in the field of design and plastic arts;
- scientific and teaching work in higher schools in academic disciplines corresponding to a professional direction 8.2. Fine Art;
- management activity in the educational system in positions that require the corresponding level of scientific qualification;
- expert activity in positions involving the solving of research and practical tasks in: scientific research institutes, higher schools, media, etc.

## CURRICULUM CONTENT

no	NAME OF THE ACTIVITIES	Form of preparation and implementation			Form of recognition
		CREDITS	HORARIUM	lectures, seminars, laboratory exercises, self-study, consultations, participation, other	exam, current evaluation, interview, certificate, report, protocol, certification, other
I. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY					
1.	Contemporary Trends in Design and Plastic Arts	4.0	120	15 l, 15 s (30 aw / 90 ss)	exam
2.	Compulsory discipline on the thematic focus of the dissertation *	4.0	120	15 l, 15 s (30 aw / 90 ss)	exam
3.	Project Preparation and Management	4.0	120	30 aw / 90 ss	exam
4.	English	4.0	120	15 l, 15 s (30 aw / 90 ss)	exam
5.	Elective discipline	4.0	120	30 l / 90 s	exam
	TOTAL:	20	600		
II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY					
1.	Literature research and referencing	10	300	self study - independent preparation	interview
2.	Presentation of research concept and toolkit	20	600	Consultations, self study - independent preparation	interview
3.	Preparation and participation in a scientific forum	20	600	participation	certificate
4.	Development and discussion of the first separate part of the dissertation work	20	600	Consultations independent preparation	interview, protocol
5.	Development and publication of an article, study or scientific report	30	900	independent preparation	publications
6.	Research activity	20	600	consultations, independent training	interview, report
7.	Development and discussion of a significant part of the dissertation work	30	900	consultations	interview Protocol
	TOTAL:	150	4500		
III. PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY					
1.	Conducting seminars/practical exercises	4	120	consultations, independent training	Interview, certification by the Head of the Department

2.	Verification of written works, preparation of reviews for diploma theses, participation in accreditation procedures and post-accreditation monitoring and control, etc.	2	60	independent preparation	certificate from the Head of the Department
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>180</b>		
<b>IV. OTHERS</b>					
1.	Participation in Department Meetings; in the work of Departmental, Faculty and University committees	2	60		Protocol
2.	Participation in academic activities and Department appearances	2	60		Protocol
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>180</b>		
	<b>TOTAL ( for the entire duration of the study ):</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>5400</b>		
<b>ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES</b>					
1.	Innovative Design Processes	4.0	120	30 1 / 90 ss	I-XII, exam
2.	The Relationship Between Contemporary Design and Stylistic Trends in Contemporary Art	4.0	120	30 1 / 90 ss	I-XII, exam
3.	Sociology of Design in the Metropolis	4.0	120	30 1 / 90 ss	I-XII, exam
4.	Contemporary Means of Expression in the Plastic Arts **	4.0	120	30 1 / 90 ss	I-XII, exam
5.	The doctoral student can choose any one of the elective disciplines in the catalog of the doctoral school of South-West University "Neofit Rilski"	4.0	120	30 1 / 90 ss	I-XII, exam