

Admission Prerequisites

The right to study in the doctoral programme in Social Sciences is granted to a person who holds a Master's qualification or an equivalent academic degree (in the following broad fields of the Classifier of Fields of Study: 01 Education; 02 Arts and Humanities; 03 Social Sciences, Journalism and Information; 04 Business, Administration and Law; 09 Health and Welfare) and who meets the requirements for enrolment in doctoral studies in accordance with the rules in force at GTU.

A candidate wishing to enrol in the programme must submit:

1. A research project outlining the applicant's research aim and direction;
2. A relevant international certificate confirming knowledge of English at no lower than B2 level, or successfully pass a B2-level English language test organised and administered by GTU. A candidate who has completed a recognised English-language educational programme at any level of higher education is not required to pass the examination or present a certificate (completion of an English-language programme is confirmed by the relevant qualification document, i.e. a diploma);
3. Document(s) confirming previous work/publications in the relevant field and/or participation in scientific research projects and events and/or at least 2 years of work experience in the relevant field;
4. Other documentation/information predetermined by the University on the basis of the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the LEPL Georgian Technical University.

A candidate whose submitted documentation fully meets the formal requirements is interviewed by the Temporary Faculty Commission. In accordance with the procedure established by the legal acts of GTU, the Temporary Faculty Commission ensures the assessment of persons wishing to be admitted to the programme in compliance with the principles of objectivity, fairness and transparency. Consideration is given to the assessment of the candidate's experience and abilities necessary for the successful completion of the doctoral educational programme, including (where available) the candidate's scientific publications, experience of participation in scientific conferences, and other documents and materials related to teaching/research activities (certificates, diplomas, patents, etc.).

Enrolment in the programme through mobility is possible twice a year, within the time frames set by the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, in compliance with the conditions and rules defined by the legislation of Georgia and the legal acts of GTU.

Enrolment in the programme from a recognised higher education institution of a foreign country is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Programme Goal

The goal of the doctoral programme is to prepare highly qualified academic staff in the field of social sciences for the local and international scientific community and higher education institutions, with knowledge and skills such as:

- Planning and conducting interdisciplinary, theoretical and applied original scientific research based on the latest achievements, taking into account the standards of scientific and professional ethics and protecting the rights of research subjects, and disseminating and implementing the results obtained;
- Identifying problems facing society in various fields, and planning, implementing and evaluating effective interventions on the basis of the evidence obtained;

- Active scientific and pedagogical activity using modern teaching methods, involvement in the teaching and learning process, and the transfer of new, innovative knowledge both to university audiences and to interested parties;

Planning and implementing continuous professional development in the field of social sciences (sociology, psychology, politics, mass communication), taking into account advanced interdisciplinary scientific knowledge and analytical and research skills.

Learning Outcomes/Competences (General and Professional)

Plans and independently conducts social research through an innovative synthesis of quantitative and qualitative methods and analytical approaches;

Uses relevant methodology and the results of empirical research in the decision-making process and in the independent planning and execution of scientific papers and research projects;

Critically analyses complex and contradictory ideas and, on their basis, develops new research or analytical perspectives and approaches;

Creatively integrates new knowledge with existing knowledge and communicates research results both to colleagues and to the interested public;

Prepares, on the basis of the theoretical and empirical research conducted, teaching and methodological materials relevant to the research topic, and interprets and presents them appropriately;

Independently **conducts** the teaching process using modern teaching and assessment methods, technologies and student-centred approaches;

In compliance with academic integrity, **carries out** scientific activities in the social sciences (sociology, psychology, politics, mass communication) based on the latest achievements.

Student Knowledge Assessment System

Assessment is carried out on a 100-point scale.

Assessment of the study component:

Positive grades are:

- (A) – Excellent – 91–100 points;
- (B) – Very good – 81–90 points;
- (C) – Good – 71–80 points;
- (D) – Satisfactory – 61–70 points;
- (E) – Sufficient – 51–60 points.

Negative grades are:

- (FX) – Did not pass – 41–50 points, which means that the student needs more work to pass and is given the right to sit an additional examination once after independent work;
- (F) – Failed – 40 points or less, which means that the work carried out by the student is not sufficient and the subject must be studied anew.

Assessment of the scientific research component/components:

- Excellent (summa cum laude) – an outstanding piece of work;
- Very good (magna cum laude) – a result that exceeds the set requirements in every respect;
- Good (cum laude) – a result that exceeds the set requirements;

- d) Average (bene) – a work of average level that meets the basic set requirements;
- e) Satisfactory (rite) – a result that, despite shortcomings, still meets the set requirements;
- f) Unsatisfactory (insufficient) – a work of unsatisfactory level that does not meet the set requirements due to significant shortcomings;
- g) Completely unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) – a result that completely fails to meet the set requirements.

The research component is assessed once, at the stage of the dissertation defence, by a final assessment.

Subject	Credits
Scientific Communication Techniques	4
Teaching Methods	6
Social Research Methods	10
Professor's Assistantship	10
Research Component	-
Total	30