

## Frequently asked questions

### On the basic questions concerning doctoral education

#### 1.) How is doctoral education structured?

The doctoral programme is based on a 2+2-year system, which means that in the first 2 years the student completes the courses related to the education followed by a complex examination in which the student reports on his/her professional and academic progress.

In the second two years of the programme, the student is solely responsible for the PhD thesis (without other subject obligations). At the same time by the end of the fourth year the student must submit the thesis.

#### 2.) Where can I find information on doctoral education?

All relevant information can be found on our website (<https://martongezadi.unideb.hu/en>) or in case of a question contact the secretary of the Doctoral School, dr. Márton Leó Zaccaria ([zaccaria.marton@law.unideb.hu](mailto:zaccaria.marton@law.unideb.hu)) or dr. Petra Várbíró the head of the office of the Doctoral School ([varbiro.petra@law.unideb.hu](mailto:varbiro.petra@law.unideb.hu)). Regarding admission process, you can also contact [info@edu.unideb.hu](mailto:info@edu.unideb.hu).

### About the tasks before admission

#### 1.) With which degree can I apply to the Marton Géza Doctoral School of Legal Studies at the University of Debrecen?

In any case, it is possible to apply to our Doctoral School, with degree in **law** in undivided (one-tier) educational programmes or diploma **in the field of legal education**; with an **MA degree in the field of public administration, law enforcement and military training**, provided that the qualification of the diploma reaches **at least the cum laude (good order) evaluation**. If you **graduated more than five years ago**, you can apply **irrespective of the qualification** you obtained, however, applicants **who do not achieve** at least cum laude (good) will be admitted only if their **academic performance is of high quality**.

In the case of an **MA degree from another educational programme**, the Doctoral School's board will decide on an **individual basis** whether to accept the application. In such cases, we recommend that you contact our doctoral school in advance of the admission procedure, so that the Doctoral Council can take a decision on your application in time. **In the case of the Political Science MA and International Relations Expert MA** degrees, the Doctoral School's Council has already approved admission previously.

#### 2.) When can I apply to the Géza Marton Doctoral School of Legal Studies, University of Debrecen?

The application period both for our **full-time and part-time** courses is due once a year, between April and May. **Application deadline in 2026 is 15 May.**

**Additional admission** procedure is applicable upon the authorization of the **Doctoral Council for Social Sciences**. Application period for the additional admission procedure lasts **between 15 July and 15 August** each year; **information** is announced on our website (<https://martongezadi.unideb.hu/en>) when the procedure is available. However, in the lack of such information on our website, additional admission will not take place in the current year. If you are interested in **additional admission**, please **contact our Doctoral School directly** ([zaccaria.marton@law.unideb.hu](mailto:zaccaria.marton@law.unideb.hu)).

**Application to individual training** is available **at any time of the year**.

### **3.) Are there state scholarship places in the Doctoral School?**

Scholarship provided directly by the Government of Hungary is available only for citizens of EEA, or Hungarian nationals living in Ukraine or Serbia. For further information, please visit our website: <https://martongezadi.unideb.hu/en/admission-procedure>.

### **4.) How much is the tuition fee for the PhD training?**

Students who do not qualify to the Governmental Scholarship Program or Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Program, can continue their studies for a tuition fee of USD 6500 / academic year (2 semesters). For further information, please visit our website: <https://martongezadi.unideb.hu/en/admission-procedure>.

### **5.) How can I apply for the PhD program?**

About the admission process, you can find information on the Doctoral School's website here: <https://martongezadi.unideb.hu/en/admission-procedure>, or you can visit the University's general website for international students: <https://edu.unideb.hu/>

### **6.) What happens if a document is not handed in or is not ready on time (e.g. negotiation of the research plan, reception of the diploma)?**

If possible, applications should be submitted in full, but if this is not possible by the deadline for applications, you will be given the opportunity to make up any deficiencies not later than the day of the interview. Failure to meet the deadline for making up the deficiency will invalidate the application.

### **7.) What is a research plan and what should it include?**

The research plan is a 2-3 page-long document (preferably in word or pdf format) in which the applicant describes her/his chosen research topic and the reason for choosing the topic, the process and schedule of the processing of the given topic and presents the research methodology. There are no other form or content restrictions regarding the research plan. The research plan must be agreed with the future supervisor you want to choose (the list of the supervisors can be seen on the website of the Doctoral School, and their exact themes also can be reached in the database [www.doktori.hu](http://www.doktori.hu) Géza Marton Doctoral School of Legal Studies of the University of Debrecen), however, the supervisor will be definitively appointed by the Doctoral Council of Social Sciences.

### **8.) What should be done if the selected supervisor cannot sign the research plan for some reason?**

In this case, signature – which means approval - must be replaced in a suitable way. The simplest way of it is an e-mail in which the chosen supervisor expresses her/his approval. (The supervisor can send the e-mail of approval either to the manager of doctoral affairs or to the applicant. It is also worth attaching the printed approval e-mail to the application package.)

### **About the admission interview**

#### **1.) How and what to prepare for the entrance exam?**

The purpose of the interview is not to measure subject knowledge, but to learn about the applicant's professional intelligence, motivation, career vision, and examination of the professional validity of the research plan. It does not require the kind of targeted preparation that a classic university colloquium does. However, it may be important for the applicant that she/he thinks over why she/he has chosen the given research topic, how she/he sees her/his future and to what extent can she/he can and wishes to utilize the PhD degree to be obtained.

#### **2.) When exactly is the interview?**

The exact date of the interview will be determined by the Doctoral Council depending on the number of applicants, but the applicants will be notified separately (by e-mail, telephone or letter by the applicant's choice). When applying, it is worth indicating if only certain hours are suitable for the applicant (e.g. she/he works in another city).

#### **3.) Where will the interview take place?**

The interview will take place at the Faculty of Law (4028 Debrecen, Kassai Street No. 26), the applicants will be informed about the exact place.

#### **4.) How does the interview take place?**

The candidate presents him/herself before a committee, typically consisting of 3-5 core members of the Marton Géza Doctoral School of Legal Studies, presents his/her research topic, his/her research plan and answers the questions raised. In order to investigate the candidate's language skills some questions will be asked in foreign language (communication in foreign language is worth 5 points in the 100-point admission procedure. The duration of the interview is 15-20 minutes.

#### **5.) When will I be informed of the result?**

The applicants will be informed on the decision of the selection board during July.