



Study Programme: Central European Studies (language of instruction: **English**)

Level of education (BA/MA): MA

Valid for students admitted in 2021 and thereafter

MA thesis and final examination requirements

Thesis requirements

Every student studying in the program is required to write a master's thesis which is worth 20 credits and which meets the requirements listed in the Rules of Study and Examinations (Tanulmányi és vizsgaszabályzat, TVSZ). Students must choose thesis topics related to Central Europe. The thesis is an independent scholarly work of the candidate's own, conforming to the rules of academic scholarship in terms of referencing, quotations, and the use of literature as well as sources. The thesis must reflect the candidate's knowledge of sources related to his/her topic; his/her familiarity with the international literature of the given scholarly field; his/her ability to provide a comprehensive summary and critical evaluation of the subject. The thesis must yield novel scholarly results in terms of the exploitation and interpretation of sources and must represent the candidate's ability to apply the methods of his/her field to his/her own work. All cases where a student is suspected with plagiarism will be brought to the Board of Review.

Formal requirements concerning the thesis:

The length must be minimum 160,000 characters with spaces (28,000 words) including spaces and footnotes, but not counting the table of contents, the bibliography, the illustrations, and the appendix, at a spacing of 1.5 and in Times New Roman font, size 12. The MA thesis should be submitted electronically in a pdf or Word file. The title page of the thesis must include the name of the author; the author's Neptun code; the title of the MA thesis in the language of the degree program as well as in Hungarian; the name of the university, the faculty and the program; the name of the thesis adviser; and the year of submission of the thesis.

The student is aided in the preparation of his/her thesis by an advisor who is a lecturer or research fellow with a PhD degree. Every student must choose an advisor and consult him or her at least three times during the preparation of the thesis. If the student fails to do so, the advisor can refuse to give his/her consent to the submission of the thesis. The thesis can only be submitted if the advisor provides a written statement declaring that he/she finds the thesis suitable for submission. The advisor's written statement must be attached to all submitted copies of the thesis. The thesis must be defended in front of a committee. The defense of the thesis is part of the final examination, which is regulated by the Rules of Study and Examinations (Tanulmányi és vizsgaszabályzat, TVSZ).

Assessment of the thesis:

Assessment is on a five-grade scale. During the evaluation, the assessor must take it into account whether the author has adhered to the prescribed requirements concerning content and form. The factors relevant for grading are scholarly achievement; familiarity with the literature of the field as well as the ability to apply it in a professional manner; structured presentation and apt application of the candidate's research results; potential topics for further research.

Final Exam requirements

Prerequisites for taking the final examination:

In order to register for the final examination, the student

- must complete all coursework prescribed by the study unit list and obtain all the grades required for the completion of the program;
- must not owe any tuition fees, books etc. to the University;
- must submit his/her thesis by the required deadline and must receive at least a passing grade (2 on a 5-grade scale) on the thesis.

Requirements and evaluation of the final examination:

The final examination is conducted orally and must be taken in front of committee consisting of minimum three lecturers with PhD degrees. The chair of the committee can be a full professor, professor emeritus, or associate professor. Permanent / long-term members of the committee can only be lecturers appointed by the Rector or the Dean. One member of the committee is required to be an external member, i.e. a scholar not employed by the University. The assessor(s) of the thesis must also be invited to the final examination.

The final examination is a combined examination consisting of the defense of the MA thesis and candidate's giving account of the most important knowledge covered by the curriculum of the program. The examinee's performance is graded on a five-grade scale (1=fail, 5=excellent). The examiners evaluate the examinee's general knowledge in the main areas covered by the program's curriculum; they evaluate the examinee's expertise in the field(s) related to the MA thesis topic; they assess the examinee's ability to carry out scholarly discourse related to his/her thesis and explain his/her main statements in an apt and convincing way.

Components of the Final Examination

A. Defence of the Thesis

B. Oral exam prescribed by the qualification requirements: The candidate gives account of the most important knowledge covered by the curriculum of the program. (For the exam question topics. See the section titled 'Further information' at the end of this document.) The examiners evaluate the examinee's general knowledge in the main areas covered by the program's curriculum; they evaluate the examinee's expertise in the field(s) related to the MA thesis topic; they assess the examinee's ability to carry out scholarly discourse related to his/her thesis and explain his/her main statements in an apt and convincing way.

Grades received at the Final Examination

A. grade received for the defence of the Thesis

B. grade received for the oral exam prescribed by the qualification requirements

The examinee's performance is graded on a five-grade scale (1=fail, 5=excellent).

Overall result (final grade) of the Final Examination

The mathematical **average** (rounded to the closest whole number) of the **two grades** [(A) grade of Thesis defence (B) grade of oral exam prescribed by the qualification requirements] received at the final exam.

In practice= [(A)+(B)]/2

Exit-level language requirements:

for the successful completion of master's program in Central European Studies, it is necessary to demonstrate

- min. C1 level knowledge of English
- and min. B1 level knowledge of one Central European language

Classification of the Diploma:

After successfully completing the final examination and passing the prescribed language examination(s), the University issues a diploma which proves that the student has successfully completed his/her studies. Upon the student's request, the University issues a Hungarian- language diploma attachment according to the format approved by the European Committee and the European Council.

The degree certificate states the mathematical average (rounded to two decimals) of the (C) Thesis evaluation grade (written part of Thesis) and the two grades [(A) grade of Thesis defence (B) grade of oral exam prescribed by the qualification requirements] received at the final examination.

In practice: [(A) + (B) + (C)]/3

Determining the Diploma grade

As described in Section 84. (6), the diploma is classified according to its average down to two decimals:

- **outstanding (5)**, if the average is 4.80–5.00,
- **excellent (5)**, if the average is 4.50–4.79,
- **good (4)**, if the average is 3.50–4.49,
- **satisfactory (3)**, if the average is 2.50–3.49,
- **pass (2)**, if the average is 2.00–2.49.

Further information:

Exam question topics in the second part of the final exam

One of the topics below will have to be randomly and blindly selected by the student in front of the exam committee. While the first part of the final exam involves the defence of the master's thesis, the second part involves the elaboration of one exam topic from the list below. After the student's own summary, the committee may ask further questions related to the selected exam question topic.

1. The emergence and evolution of the concept of Central Europe
2. Political history of Central Europe in the long 19th century (1790-1918)
3. The political system, economy, society and culture in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, 1867-1918.
The Monarchy's heritage

4. Political history of Central Europe in the first half of the 20th century (until the end of World War II). Besides a general overview, please present the specifics of one country from the region.
5. Political history of Central Europe from 1945 to 1989. Besides a general overview, please present the specifics of one country from the region.
6. The regime changes of 1989-90 and their consequences. New political systems after 1990
7. National movements in Central Europe in the 19th century. Peoples and languages of the region; the emergence of literary languages, national literary and cultural traditions
8. The situation of minorities in Central European countries in the modern and contemporary periods. (culture, society, legal relations, minority and language policies)
9. Cultural relations and transfers in Central Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries
10. Architecture and urban development in Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries
11. Literature and literary trends in Central Europe in the 20th century
12. Societies and societal transformation in Central Europe in the 20th century. Common features and local differences
13. Economic characteristics of Central Europe in the 20th century
14. International relations of Central Europe in the 20th and early 21st century. Central Europe in the globalized world (including the USA and the post-Soviet space)
15. Central Europe and the Euro-Atlantic integration (the European Union and the NATO)
16. Regional relations, conflicts and cooperation in the region from 1990 (Quadrangone, V4, CEFTA, Slavkov Triangle, Three Seas Initiative (Trimarium))
17. History of Hungary from 1919 to 1945 (domestic and foreign policy, economy, society, culture; Hungary in World War II)
18. History of Hungary from 1945 to 1990 (politics, culture, economy, society and the country's international position in the Cold War era)