

İzmir University of Economics, Graduate School

# Design Studies

## PhD Proficiency Exam Procedure

December, 2024



# FFD 697 Proficiency Exam

(after completing the compulsory and elective courses, and Seminar - total 60 ECTS)

1st phase

## Proficiency Exam Paper (PEP)

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Approximately 6000-8000 words - including the bib.; annotated bibliography on the targeted research subject.<sup>2</sup>

**PEP should be submitted 10 days before the written exam.**

## Proficiency Part 1 Written Exam

### Proficiency Part 1 Written Exam<sup>3</sup>

Tests...

A. the knowledge level of the student in Design Studies (history and theory) in relation with the targeted research subject.

B. research skills and academic writing

**Total 3 questions (1 compulsory Research Methods Question, 2 selected out of 4 questions)**

## Proficiency Part 2 Oral Exam

### Proficiency Part 2 Oral Exam<sup>4</sup>

Student is expected to deliver max 15 minutes of presentation on the draft research questions. After the presentation jury members will ask questions on;

A. PEP

B. Related with the student's responses to the written exam questions

C. Draft research questions

D. Research methodology

**Within the 3 days' time after written**

2nd phase

## FFD 698 Dissertation Proposal

(After being successful from FFD 697, should be in 6 months' time after the proficiency exam)

## FFD 699 PhD Dissertation

### **1.PEP (Annotated Bibliography):**

- It is a commentary paper which is the brief account of the available research on the targeted subject.It is a list of citations to books, articles,and documents, and includes concise descriptions and evaluations of each source in relation with each other.
- It should be an extended and critical commentary on the selected bibliography. Student is expected to provide a brief summaryof content and a short analysis and/or evaluation by reflecting, summarising, criticising, evaluating and analysing the the selected bibliography.
- The selected bibliography should provide an acceptable and strong foundation for the field of study by discussing the theory, historyand recent studiesin the targeted subject in Design Studies.
- The format of PEP should be well structured as introduction, main body, conclusion and bibliography. In the conclusion, studentis expected to present the draft research question(s)(RQs) so that in the oral exam there will be a discussion on the topic and the RQs to provide constructive criticism for the next step FFD 698 Dissertation Proposal.
- For further information about annotated bibliography please visit the following web pages; <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/annotated-bibliography>
- Word limit is 6000-8000 including bibliography/references. The format of the text is like the thesis format that is provided by the graduate school (<https://lisansustu.ieu.edu.tr/en/tez-yazim-kilavuzu>)

### **2. Targeted Research Subject:**

- PEP should not be a dissertation proposal but rather an overview of the theory on a subject or specific field of study in Design Studies. It can be any subject in relation with history,theory and practice of design and design related topics.

### **3. PE Written Exam:**

- According to the targeted research subject that is presented in the PEP, each jury member is asked to prepare one question. This question can either ask to elaborate any issue related with the subject that is not discussed enough in the paper or a general theory and/or history question in relation with the related field of study in design studies.
- The question that is prepared by the prospective dissertation supervisor should be a research methods question that evaluates the research skills of the student (i.e. structuring a methodology).
- In the written exam, student is asked to respond the Research Methods question (by the prospective dissertation Supervisor) and any selected two questions (total 3 questions should be answered). The written exam is evaluated by the jury members.

### **4. PE Oral Exam:**

- If the student is successful from the written exam (80 points or more) within three days time s/he is invited for an oral examination.
- In this examination, student is asked to deliver a very short presentation in which s/ he is expected to present draft research questions in relation with the targeted research subject.
- This presentation should not be more than 15 minutes and briefly summarise the paper and present the aimed research study.

#### **•However, it should not be the Dissertation Proposal.**

- The evaluation criteria are:
  - A.The level of student's knowledge on the targeted research subject
  - B.How competent the student is in design research methods (research question, hypothesis proposal, testing the hypothesis, structuring a research study etc)
  - C.Academic writing skills
  - D.Oral presentation abilities.

For the official procedure and to do list before and after the PhD Proficiency Exam, please visit the web page of the Graduate School:  
(<https://lisansustu.ieu.edu.tr/en/tez-yazim-kilavuzu>).

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