



# Doctoral studies in the Ecology and Genetics Research Unit

Sign to a email list for PhD students here:  
<http://lists.oulu.fi/mailman/listinfo/biolphd>



1. UniOGS
2. Study Plan for Biologists
3. Follow-up groups
4. In addition, research and thesis



# 1. UniOGS

University of Oulu Graduate School

Doctoral researchers in the University of Oulu are part of an international, multidisciplinary scientific community. Doctoral training is coordinated by the University of Oulu Graduate School (UniOGS).



Doctoral dissertations

Doctoral training culminates in a doctoral thesis defence, where the doctoral thesis is awarded publicly. Approximately 100-200 new doctoral graduates from the University of Oulu annually. Browse our doctoral theses in the [University of Oulu Repository](#). Welcome to follow the upcoming doctoral thesis defences!

Thesis defences

Find information about doctoral training, study requirements, supervision, and completing the thesis and the degree.

For doctoral researchers and supervisors

For new doctoral researchers

Thesis and study requirements

Supervision and support of the doctoral researcher

Final stages of doctoral degree

Study right and passive register

Are you interested in doctoral training at the University of Oulu?

Take a look at our Admissions page to find more information about doctoral training and the application process.

Admissions

Who are we?

The University of Oulu Graduate School started its activities in 2011. The goal of UniOGS is to provide the framework for the doctoral education of all doctoral researchers at the University of Oulu. The Graduate School's main task is to provide a high-quality doctoral education at the University of Oulu.

Organisation and contact information of UniOGS

- All doctoral students have to apply and be accepted to get their degrees
- Doctoral programmes and doctoral training committees:
  - Health and Biosciences
  - Technology and Natural Sciences
  - Human Sciences
  - Information Technology and Electrical Engineering

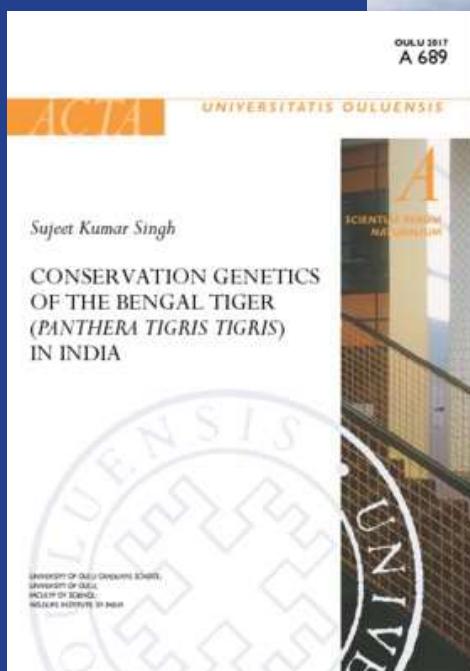
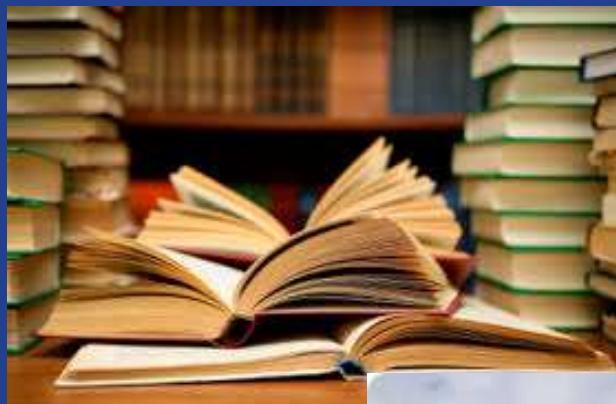
Biology students

Visit the web- page for more information!!!!

<https://www.oulu.fi/en/research/graduate-school>



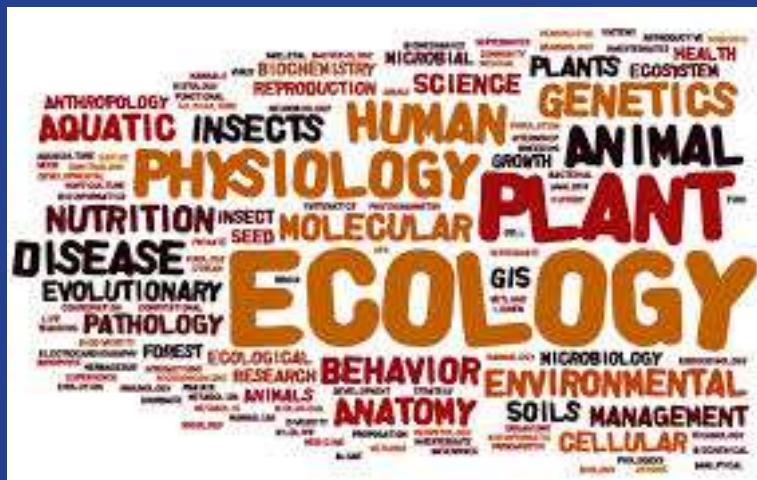
## 2. Study Plan for Biologists



- The doctoral degree requirements include studies (30 changes to 25 credits), research and thesis. The amount of research and thesis are not measured as credit points.
- The studies, research and thesis should be completed within **three to four** years.
- Remember to make a HOPS/PSP (=personal study plan) in Peppi



## 2. Study Plan for Biologists



- **Field-specific studies (at least 21 credits)**
  - Obligatory:
    - Kaamos-symposium (2cr)
      - Credits given by Timo Muotka
    - Research plan seminar (1 cr)
      - Credits given by Timo Muotka
    - Doctoral training plan (3 cr)
      - Credits given by UNIOGS, presented to the follow-up group
    - Doctoral exam (6-10cr)
      - Credits given by the professor of the field
    - Field-specific methodology and specialization courses (4cr)
      - Credits given by the teacher/your supervisor
    - Other supporting minor or major studies (at least of intermediate or advanced level 0-4cr)
      - Credits given by the teacher/your supervisor
  - **CHANGE, these are no longer obligatory starting from 2024-2025:**
    - Introductory essay (4cr)
      - Credits given by the professor of the field
    - Conferences (2cr)
      - Credits given by your supervisor



## 2. Study Plan for Biologists



### – Transferable skills courses (at least 4 credits)

Obligatory:

- UniOGS Introduction Course (1cr)
- Scientific research and ethics (2cr)
- Meetings with the follow-up group (1 cr)

### – Teaching (optional)

- Credits only if formal pedagogy training or at least 2 credits in higher education pedagogy
  - Credits given by your supervisor



## a) The research plan & seminars



- Three parts;
  1. The establishment and writing of the full doctoral training plan, which includes detailed research and study plans. The student should also include a brief outline of his/her career development plan (3 cr)
  2. The presentation of the doctoral training plan to, and its recommendation for acceptance by, the student's Doctoral Training Follow-up Group (as part of the follow-up group meetings). The plan is formally accepted by the student's Doctoral Training Committee
  3. Public presentation of the research plan in the Research Plan Seminar (1cr)



## a) The research plan & seminars



- Own research plan and its presentation should be completed before starting the actual research (≈ during the first six months)
- Written according to the guidelines:  
<https://www.oulu.fi/en/research/graduate-school/thesis-and-study-requirements/study-requirements/instructions-writing-doctoral-training-plan>
- The research plan will be written independently but with the help of the supervisor(s)
- Ask for two opponents for your seminar and your supervisors to attend if possible
- Send the plan to other students via the biolphd-mailing list at least a week before the presentation



## a) The research plan seminars

- Tuesdays at 14-15 (mostly)
- Research plan presentations and other issues related to doctoral studies
- The students have to present their *research plan* during the first study year and attend min. 10 other seminars (of which 2 as an opponent)
- Credits given by Timo Muotka





## b) Kaamos - symposium



- Presentations of the *results* at the mid/finishing phase of studies
- The beginning students will organize the symposium
- 2 cr (own oral presentation + attendance, obligatory)
- 0.5 cr (poster, optional)
- 2 cr organization, “optional”
- Practicing the presentations in the form of oral presentations and posters
- Kaamos 2024: at some time point in December
- Will be the 28<sup>th</sup> time in a row!
- Credits given by Timo Muotka



## c) Doctoral exam



- Can be done either as a traditional exam or as a reading diary
- Amount of credits depends on the amount of literature included, 100 pages ~1 cr.
- Depending on the amount of other studies, you may choose the extent from 6 to 10 cr
- Should be completed within the first study year
  
- Agree about the literature with your supervisors and the professor of the field, who will make and evaluate your exam
- Credits given by the professor of the field



### 3. Each student has a follow-up group



- The group includes two/three members who have doctoral degrees.
- **CHANGE:** The follow-up-group meetings should be agreed with the supervisors and the follow-up group members:
  - First the student presents the plans/changes/progress to all
  - Then the follow-up group discusses with the student without the supervisors
  - Then the follow-up group discusses with the supervisors, without the student
  - Lastly, all discuss together



### 3. Each student has a follow-up group



**Note: Only the students participating the follow-up system can apply for grants from the UniOGS!**

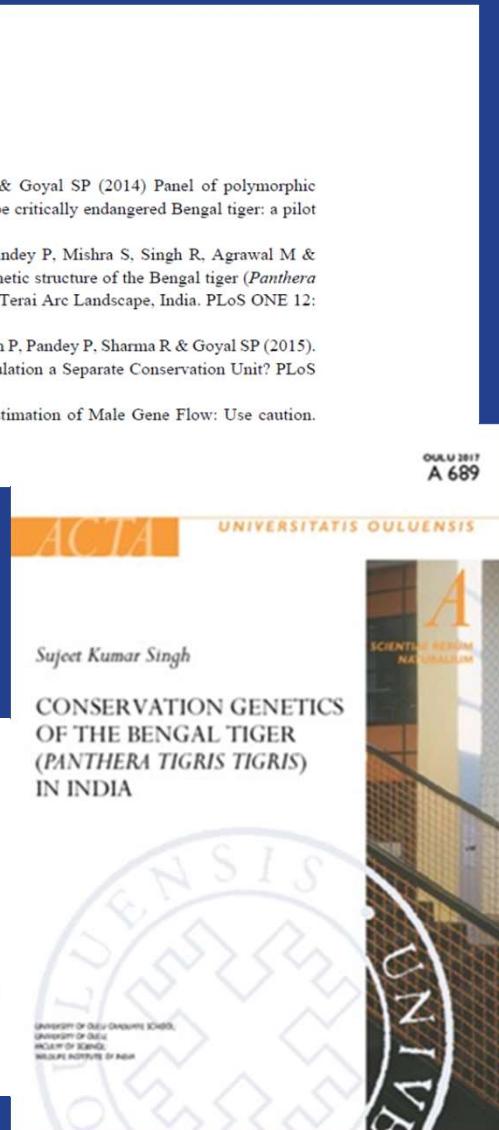
- The students make a *report* at least *thrice* during the studies
- See UniOGS web-page
- During the first year, the doctoral training follow-up group evaluates the student's doctoral training plan, before it is submitted to the Doctoral Training Committee for approval
- Next years: Practical and scientific issues, assessment of being close to defense
- The group will make a report of the discussion and hand it to the student and supervisors
- In addition the group reports to the Doctoral training Committee
- Credits given by UNIOGS



## 4. In addition of course

### List of original articles

- I Mishra S, Singh SK, Munjal A, Aspi J & Goyal SP (2014) Panel of polymorphic heterologous microsatellite loci to genotype critically endangered Bengal tiger: a pilot study. Springer Plus 3: 4.
- II Singh SK, Aspi J, Kvist L, Sharma R, Pandey P, Mishra S, Singh R, Agrawal M & Goyal SP (2017) Fine scale population genetic structure of the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) in human-dominated western Terai Arc Landscape, India. PLoS ONE 12: e0174371.
- III Singh SK, Mishra S, Aspi J, Kvist L, Nigam P, Pandey P, Sharma R & Goyal SP (2015). Tigers of Sundarbans in India: Is the Population a Separate Conservation Unit? PLoS ONE 10: e0118846.
- IV Hedrick P, Singh SK & Aspi J (2015) Estimation of Male Gene Flow: Use caution. Journal of Heredity 106: 745–748.



- Research
- Thesis
  - As a summary
    - + Original publications
  - Even one high quality publication will suffice
  - Generally, 3 publications: 2 published + 1 (submitted) manuscript (though it is nowhere stated exactly like this)
  - **The requirements are likely to change in the near future**
  - Or as a monograph
    - Very rare in our field
  - Public defence



# Further changes to discuss

- **Forming Peer support groups of "PhD cohorts"**
  - Starting phase
    - Possible topics:
    - arrangements for supervision,
    - studies, tips, and feedback,
    - Feedback of follow-up meetings
    - Getting started with research; problems and solving them
  - Middle phase
    - Changes of research plan, why?
    - Progress in studies?
    - Experiences from teaching
    - Tips for data analyses
    - Scientific writing
  - Final phase
    - Peer groups for writing papers,
    - And for writing the summary of the thesis
    - Practising the dissertation
- **Changes in the final stages perhaps to come**
  - Permission to defend by the head of the doctoral committee (no need to go to monthly meetings, if these are straightforward)
  - Shortening of the pre-examination time
  - Possibility of the second pre-examiner to act also as an opponent (only two external examiners then...)
  - Requirements for the publication status of the articles