

M U N I
F I

Introduction to PhD Study: Formal and Scientific Requirements

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Image credit:
Hsiang-Yun Wu,
St. Pölten UAS
TU Wien

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DUVOD: Course Organization

- **Intro session (today)**
- Formal aspects of PhD study at FI MU

- **PhD retreat in Telč**
- Discussions and activities focused on practical aspects of research work
- Opportunity to get to know your colleagues
- Tentative dates: May 3rd – May 5th or May 31st – June 2nd 2023

- **Both parts are compulsory!**

The Illustrated Guide to a PhD

Once you are at the boundary, you focus:

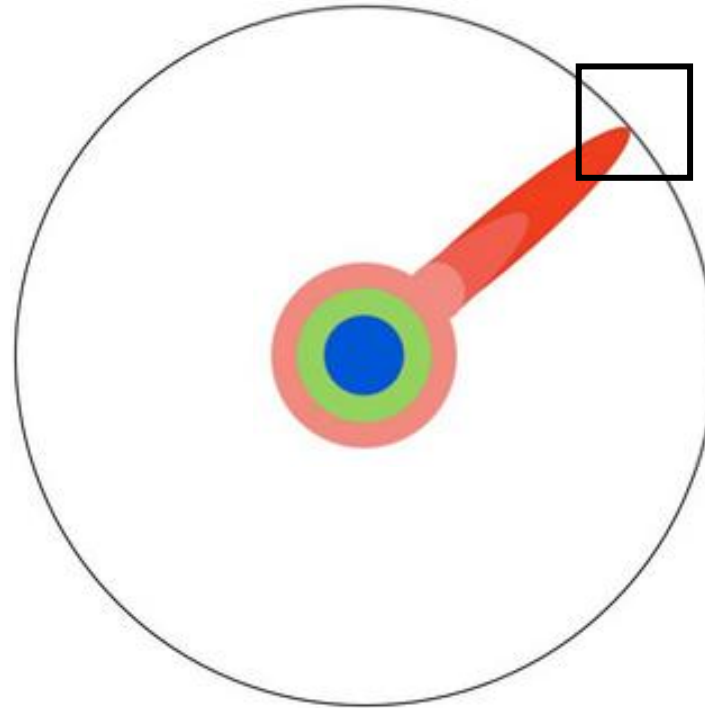


Image credit: Matt Might, University of Utah, <http://matt.might.net/>
<http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/>

The Illustrated Guide to a PhD

And, that dent you have made is called a PhD.:

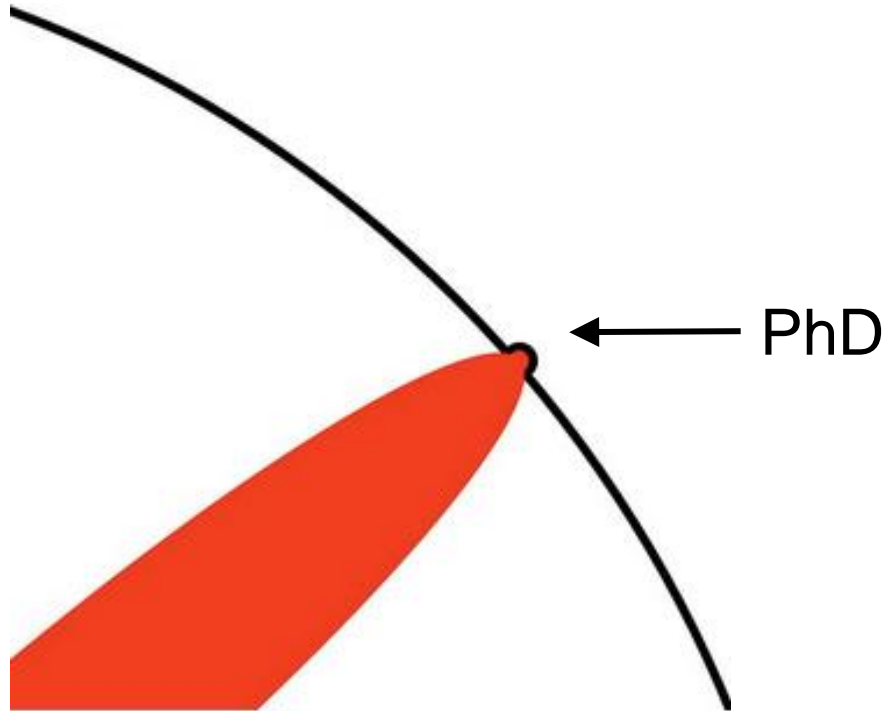


Image credit: Matt Might, University of Utah, <http://matt.might.net/>
<http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/>

The Illustrated Guide to a PhD

So, do not forget the bigger picture:

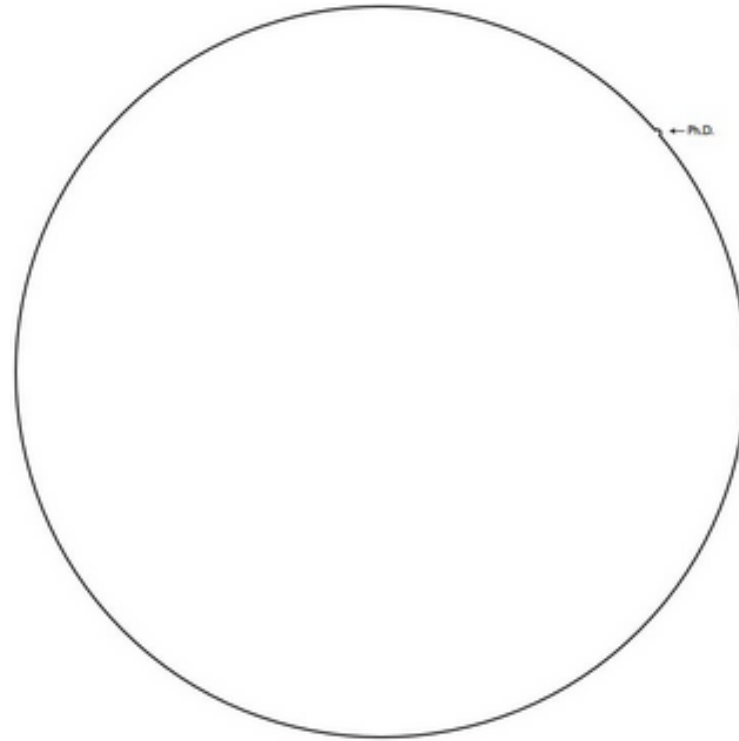


Image credit: Matt Might, University of Utah, <http://matt.might.net/>
<http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/>

Study Program at FI

- One study program: **Informatics**
- Standard length: **4 years**
- Up to 8 years by the Law

- Two specializations:
- **Fundamentals of Computer Science** (theory-oriented)
- **Computing Technology and Methodology** (application-oriented)

Read more: <https://www.fi.muni.cz/admission/doctoral/fields.html.en>

Important People

- **Supervisor**
- Each specialization coordinated by one **Doctoral Committee**
- The entire study program coordinated by the **Doctoral Board**

- Additionally, if you have any **problems or questions**:
- Office for Doctoral and International Studies: **Ada Nazarejová**
- Ombudsman for doctoral students: **Barbora Kozlíková**



Stages of PhD Study



- Year 1 • Orientation in the field, deepening of the knowledge
- Year 2 • First results, publications, failures (not necessarily in this order)
- Year 2+ • **Thesis Proposal and State Doctoral Exam (3rd and 4th semester)**
- Year 4 (ideally) • More results, publications, failures (not necessarily in this order)
- Thesis writing and defense (perhaps the most stressful stage)
- Semestral schedule: <https://www.fi.muni.cz/studies/doctoral/schedule.html.en>

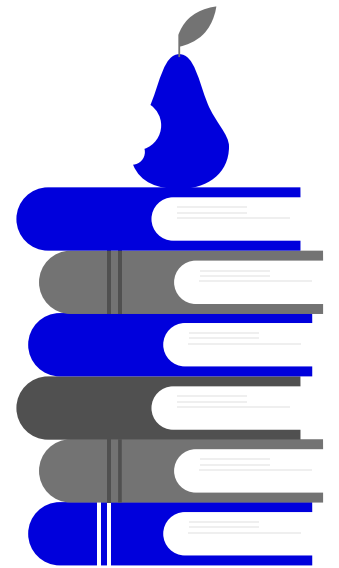
Control Mechanisms

- Guideline for the student, supervisor, committee, and board
- **Individual study plan: Overall plan**
 - The general direction of the study
 - At the beginning of study
- **Individual study plan: Semestral plans**
 - Specification of the tangible results
 - Every semester – summary of previous semester, plan for the next
- **Thesis Proposal**
 - Shows the student knows what to do and has realistic plan
 - 4th semester at latest



Mandatory Courses

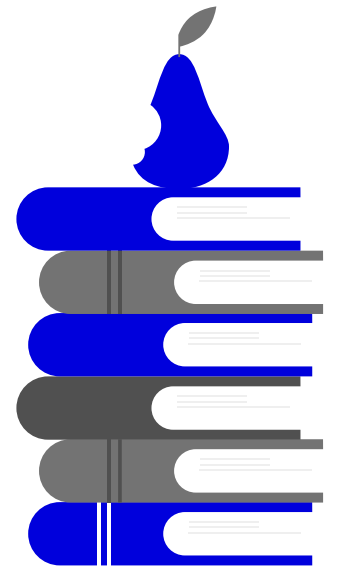
- **DUVOD** Introduction to PhD Study (2 credits)
- **DACSE** Academic Communication Skills in English (2 credits)
- **DTEDI** Thesis Proposal (7 credits): **≤4th semester**
- **DZAST** Internship Abroad (12-36 credits)
 - At least 30 days in total, 2 credits/5 days
 - Can be split into smaller stays of at least 10 consecutive days
 - https://is.muni.cz/do/fi/formulare/PhD_studium/35653494/
- **DINDIV** Individual Research Plan (≥215 credits)
 - 15-40 credits/semester
- In total you need **≥ 240 credits**
- <https://is.muni.cz/auth/do/fi/phd/predmety/>



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Voluntary Courses

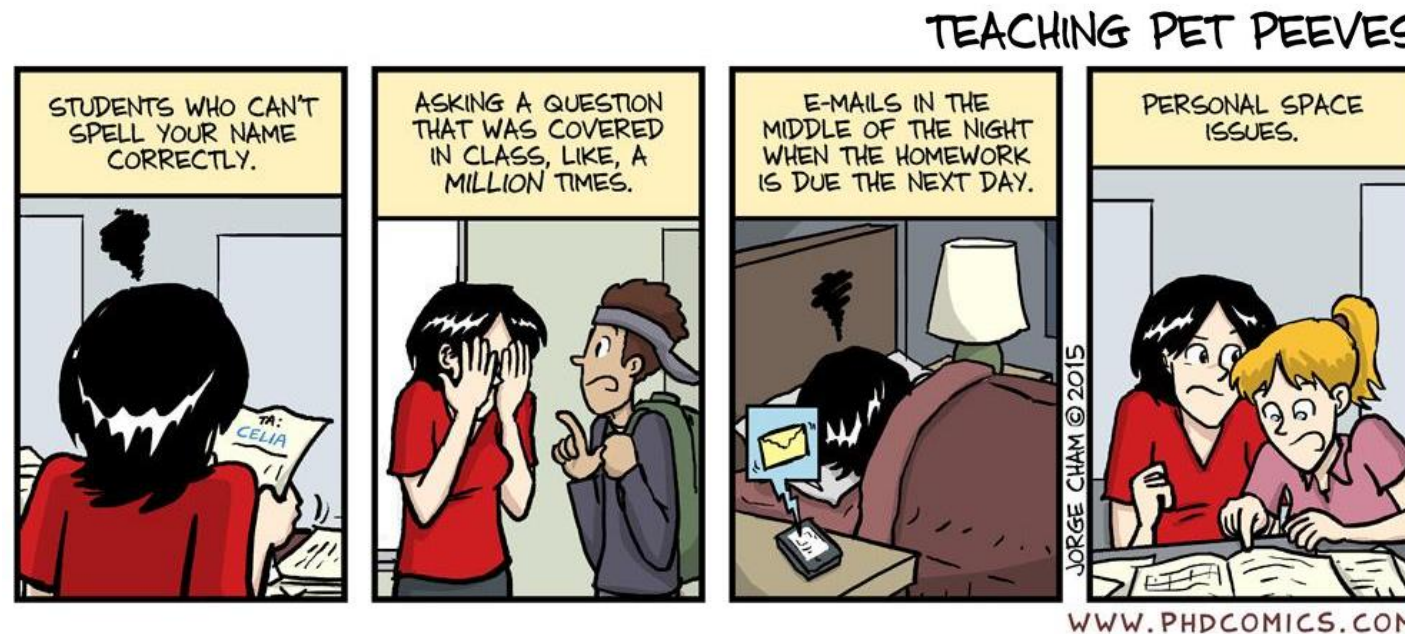
- **DINKOL** Informatics Colloquium (1 credit/semester)
 - Invited lectures on various research topics
 - Every Tuesday at 14:30 in A217, informal 'meet the speaker' starts at 14:00
 - <https://www.fi.muni.cz/research/colloquium/index.html>
- **DUCIT** Teaching Lab (3 credits)
- **VV041** English for Academic Purposes (2 credits)
- **VV043** Academic Writing in English (5 credits)



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Service to Faculty

- **10 hours per semester:** Supervision of examinations and tests
 - <https://is.muni.cz/auth/do/fi/phd/28933687/>
- **2 x per study:** Administration at Bachelor/Master State Exam
- **Teaching:** Not strictly compulsory, might be expected by supervisor

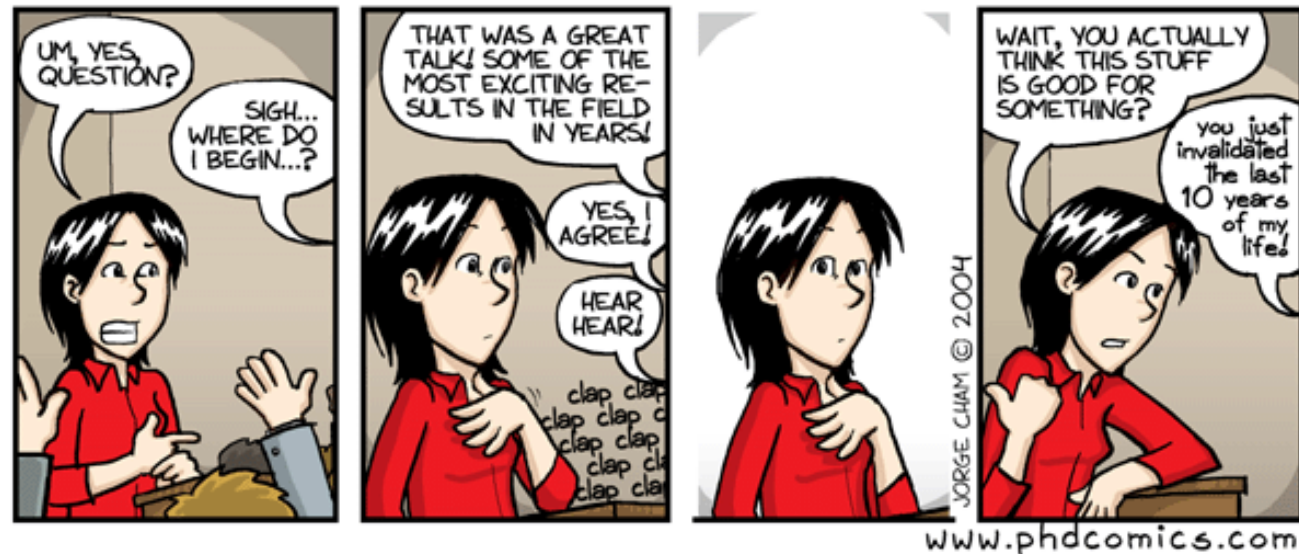


Publications

- At least **two peer-reviewed publications** at international fora
- The most important aspect of your research work
- Several types of publication media available:
 - **Conferences**
 - **Journals**
 - Books, book chapters (typically on invitation)
 - Patents
- The purpose of each medium varies across scientific fields
- The term 'a good publication' therefore varies as well

Conferences

- Rapid dissemination of currently examined ideas, reporting "smaller" results
- People networking
- Single or double-round review process with a binary decision
- Results published in 'Proceedings' or associated journals



Journals

- Longer validity of results expected
- Reporting "finalized/almost finalized" results
- Automatic distribution to subscribers
- Multi-round review process with a possible revision



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Publishing Models

- **Open Access**

- Authors submit
- Publisher gets the work evaluated (revision process)
- If accepted, **authors pay** a publishing fee and publishers 'prints' the work
- Everyone reads for free

- **Closed Access**

- Authors submit
- Publisher gets the work evaluated (revision process)
- If accepted, publisher 'prints' the work
- **Readers pay** to get access to the published work

Publication Quality

- Often judged by the quality of publication media

Research Publications • At the international level, the thesis lists two journal papers and three conference publications. Both journal papers are in the Service Science journal, a fast-track online journal with an interdisciplinary editorial board currently managed by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. The journal exists for five years and is not (yet) included in JCR or SCOPUS.

Of the three conference publications, two are from the Naples Forum on Service, a biannual meeting for discussing service topics from business and systems perspectives, with 2009 abstract acceptance rate reported at about 50%. The third publication is from the International Conference on Security and Management, one of a series of mass conferences long suspected of fraudulent practices associated with Hamid Arabnia, and is not related to the thesis.

The official research domain of the thesis is computer science, however, the publication record does not appear to target typical computer science publication venues. Instead, it aims for the more interdisciplinary domain of service science.

How To Choose Publication Media?

Availability

- **Ask colleagues** where they publish
- Check **publication lists of cooperating/competing groups**, established authorities in the field
- Check your **favorite papers** and the references in there
- Check **citation databases and search engines**:
 - Web of Knowledge - <http://webofknowledge.com>
 - Scopus - <http://scopus.com>
 - DBLP - <http://dblp.uni-trier.de>
 - Google Scholar - <http://scholar.google.com>
- Check **field-specific lists of conferences and journals** (e.g., <http://imagescience.org>)
- Check **publisher/society calendars** (e.g., <https://dl.acm.org/conferences/upcoming>)

How To Choose Publication Media?

Eligibility at FI MU (Conferences)

- According to the Evaluation of Employees (Autumn, 2021):

”A high-quality conference publication is a paper in the main program of a conference with rank B or higher. The conference rank by default applies only to the main conference program, and not to any of the associated workshops, student sessions or poster sessions.”

Read also: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qkva47eKdOqn4GPATyzJ-UzxXkLJxKaBjnEK5s98oUc/edit>

- The actual list of conference ranks:
 - <http://portal.core.edu.au/conf-ranks>
 - <http://gii-grin-scie-rating.scie.es/ratingSearch.jsf>

How To Choose Publication Media?

Eligibility at FI MU (Journals)

- According to the Evaluation of Employees (Autumn, 2021):
 - *” A high-quality journal publication is an article in a journal with impact factor.”*
- The actual list of journal ranks:
 - <http://jcr.clarivate.com>
- **Impact factor:**
 - The number of citations to the articles published in the previous two years divided by the number of articles published in those years
 - Essentially the average number of recent citations per article

Predatory Publishers

Hello Furmanova Katarina,

On behalf of our Organizing Committee, we are pleased to announce the “**International E-Conference on Metabolism, Obesity Health and Diseases (ICMOH-2022)**”, which will be held on March 14-15, 2022.

We went through your research article entitled with .

We are so glad to welcome you to deliver a valuable talk in our oral sessions at our conference ICMOH-2022.

...

* Registration will apply for the conference

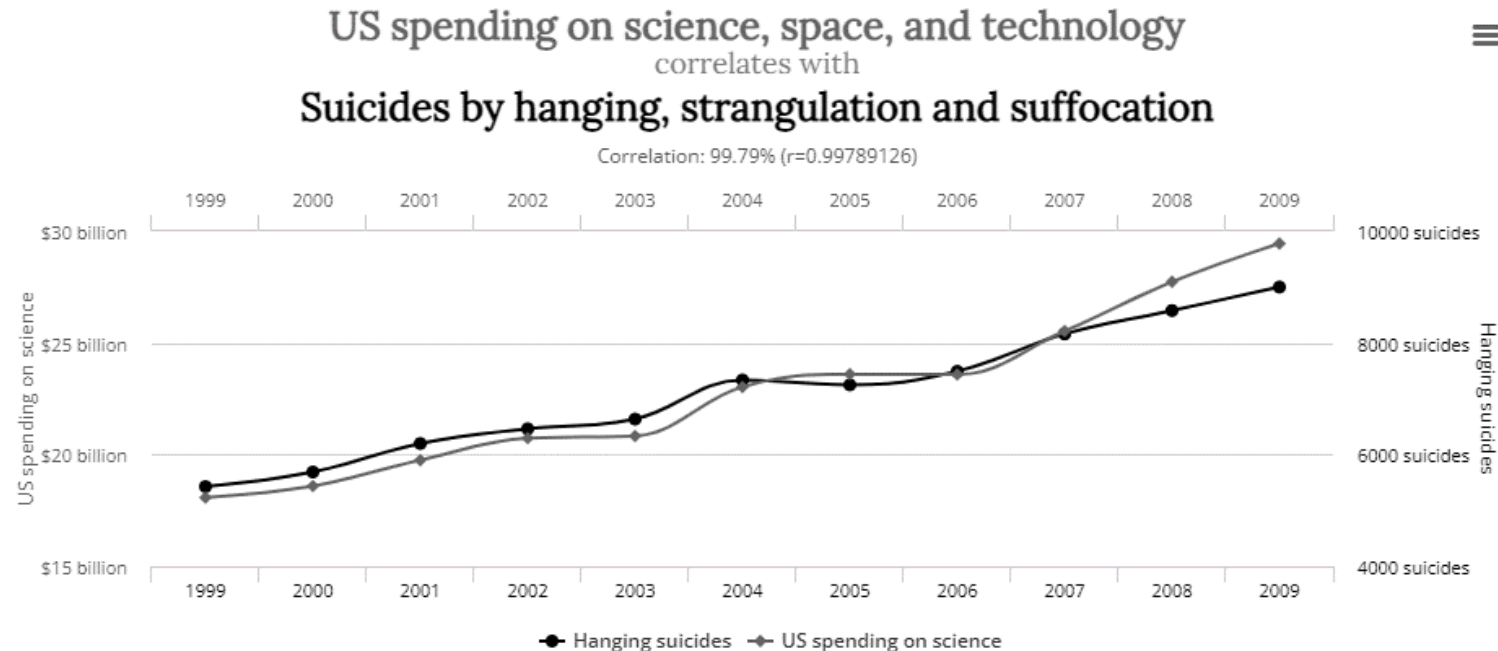
Predatory Publishers and Conferences

- Check (and silently ignore) those desperately inviting you to publish:
<http://beallslist.net/>
- Beware of **MDPI** and **Hindawi**
- Typical signs of predatory publishers/conferences:
 - Conferences: exotic venues (e.g., Hawaii or a cruise ship)
 - Journals: open-access model (not a bad thing by itself)
 - Short deadlines for notifications of acceptance
 - Wide scope of accepted topics
 - Suspicious committee members (look for known members of the research community)
 - <http://www.rtcse.org/>

Publication Ethics

Bad Practices

- Publishing for the sake of publishing (e.g., in predatory journals)
- Data dredging, cherry-picking, p-hacking



Publication Ethics

Bad Practices

- Publishing for the sake of publishing (e.g., in predatory journals)
- Data dredging, cherry-picking, p-hacking
- Publishing unreliable/non-replicable results
 - Many publishers promote sharing data & source-code to avoid this
- Plagiarism, dual publishing (self-plagiarism)
 - Respect intellectual property
- Funding misuse

Research Ethics

Legal and Ethical Aspect of Research

- Confidentiality (reviewed papers, grants, ...)
- Sensitive data handling, research on human or animal subjects
 - In IT mostly user studies, collecting information on user practices
 - Consent, anonymization, data storing
- Research Ethics Committee
 - Approval often required by publishers or funding agencies
 - <https://www.muni.cz/en/about-us/organizational-structure/boards-and-committees/research-ethics-committee/ethics-at-mu>

Research Ethics

General Guidelines

- Carefulness, honesty, objectivity, openness about your research
- Confidentiality, respectfulness towards colleagues, competitors, participants
- MU Academic Code of Ethics, misconducts handled by Ethics board of MU

- More on research ethics in DTEDI

Reporting Your Publications

- Make sure you add your publications to IS (some stipends depend on them)
- Transfer the publication records to RIV
 - RIV = Rejstřík informací o výsledcích – National registry of research outcomes
 - Publications affiliated with MU – important for evaluation of the faculty/university
 - Instructions (only in Czech): <https://is.muni.cz/auth/do/fi/RIV/riv.html>

A new publication record is being created.

Display detailed instructions Disable bubble help

Display only the items required for RIV

Display only the items necessary for publication/outcome identification

Basic information on the record:

Form type (outcome type for RIV):

transfer the publication/outcome record to the RIV database

Perform the web check of the record

all the authors are allowed to edit the record

The publication has been made public on Elportál.

Do not make public

Formal Requirements Summary

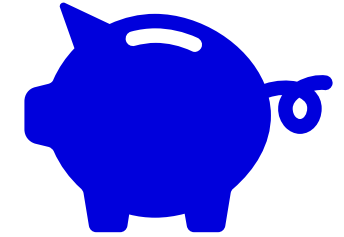
- **≥240 credits + ≥30-day foreign internship + Thesis Proposal + State Doctoral Exam + Thesis**
- **≥215 credits for DINDIV Individual Research Plan**
- **Service to Faculty**
 - Exam supervision
 - State exam administration help
 - Teaching
- **At least two peer-reviewed publications** at international fora

Financing

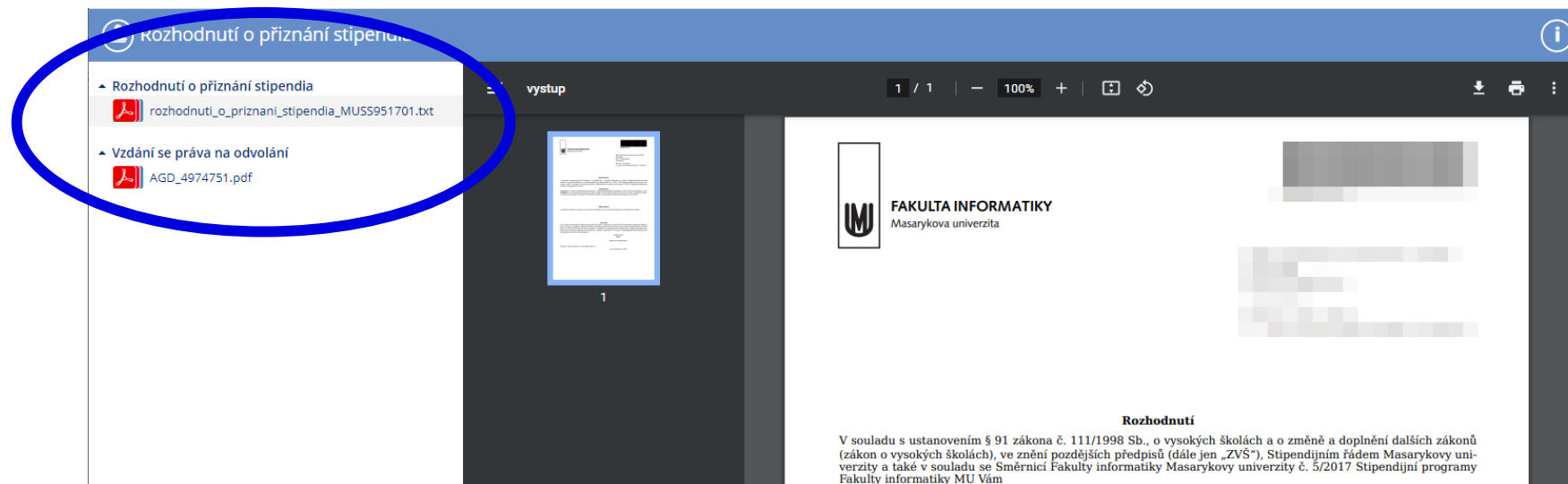


- **Your ‘salary’** (<https://www.fi.muni.cz/admission/doctoral/finance.html.en>)
- ‘Active students’ scholarship: <https://www.fi.muni.cz/~smerk/firank/phd2022P.html>
 - First year – every full-time student
 - Later – if you had at least one quality publication in the past 2 years that is within MU fully affiliated with FI, or multiple publications that add up to 100% FI affiliation, e.g., publications shared between FI and ICS (ÚVT) or other faculties
- Stipends from the Specific Research projects – nominated by supervisor
- Teaching, project money (research grants, industry partners), [Brno Ph.D. talent](#)

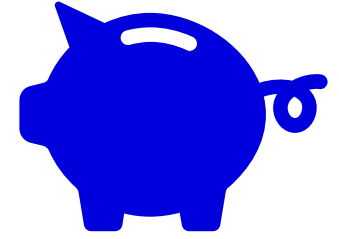
Financing



- When you are awarded a scholarship, you will get a notification that a document was delivered to you via IS. Please open the document and (unless you want to decline the money), please **click that you want to give up the right to appeal** the decision (“Vzdání se práva na odvolání”) and then please **confirm it**. Make sure to do it for **all** scholarships. You get the money sooner and save other people a lot of headache 😊.



Financing



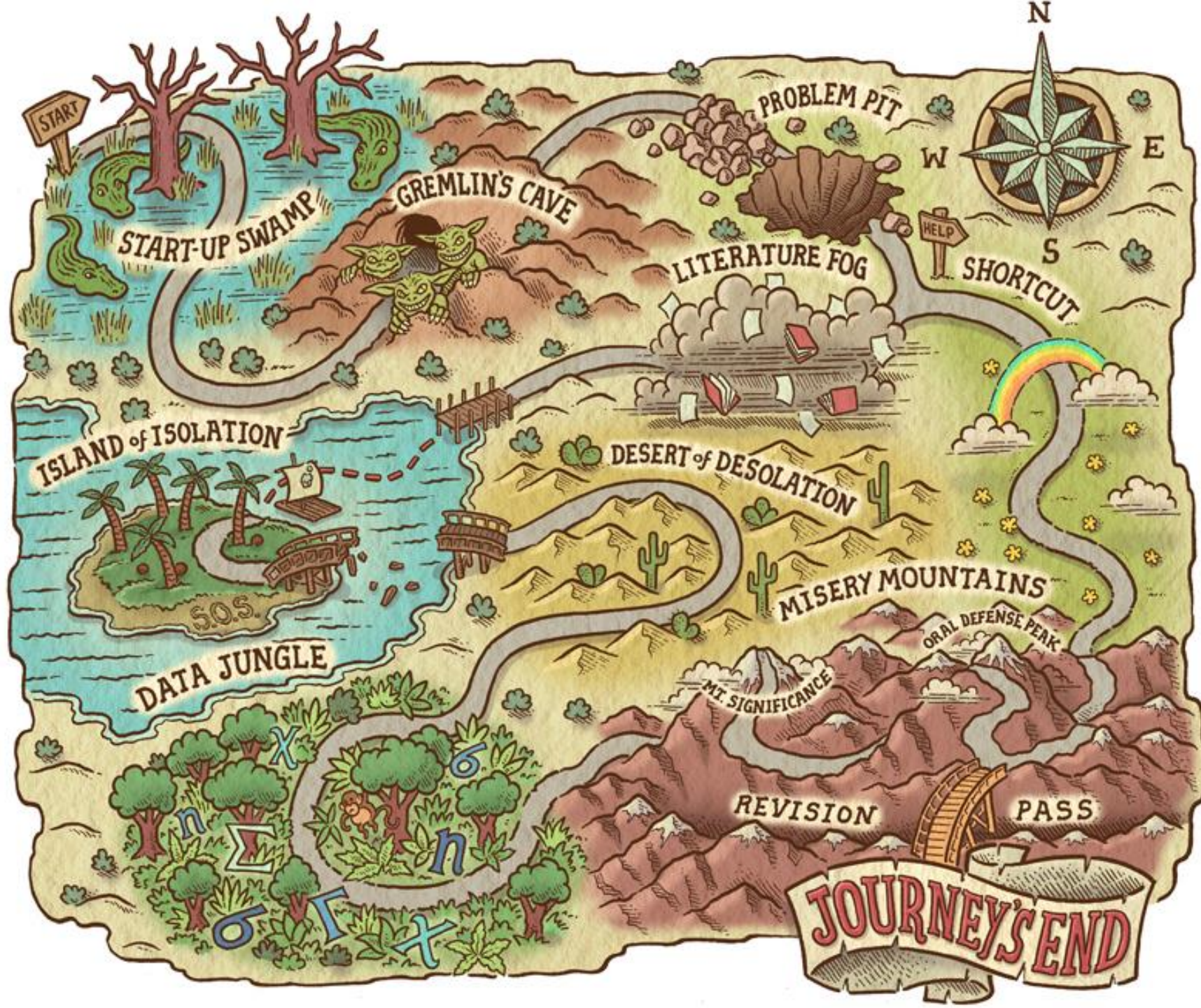
- **Internships, conference participation, and publications**
- A limited budget of your Head of Department
- Budget provided by Rector's Office
- Research grants awarded to your supervisor
- Stipends from the Specific Research project: <https://forms.gle/955QxR4xX7ds4gqw5>
 - Active participation at conferences ranked A or higher
 - Active participation at distinguished summer/winter schools
 - Research internships abroad

What's next?

- **PhD retreat in Telč**
- Discussion and activities focused on practical aspects of research work
- Opportunity to get to know your colleagues
- **Tentative dates: May 3rd – May 5th or May 31st – June 2nd 2023**



- [MUNI PhD Academia/FRESHERS](#)



The Journey Begins...

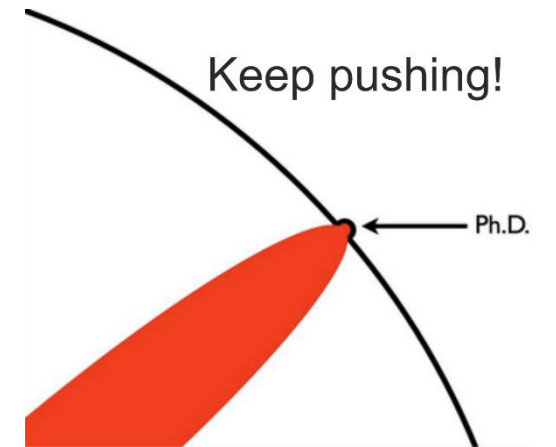


Image credit:
Mario Zucca Illustration

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