

INNOVATIVE TOURISM (3rd level of study)

For all of you directed into research or academic career in the field of tourism we present a new doctoral programme **Innovative Tourism**. With this programme, which represents the highest level of study of tourism in Slovenia, we enable students of Turistica the continuation of study of tourism on all three levels, while at the same time opening the doors also to other post-graduate, doctoral students who see their opportunity in the diverse, multi-disciplinary field of tourism research.

The 3rd level study programme, Innovative tourism, is the first doctoral programme in the field of tourism in Slovenia. Upgrading the existing study programme on the 1st and 2nd level with a 3rd level study programme (doctoral study) is a response to contemporary tourist practices and, at the same time, the challenge of fast evolving tourism thought.

Tourism as the most propulsive industry of the 21st century requires staff for in-depth research in tourism and development of competencies in the field of innovative processes, products and communications in tourism!

With the development of competences in the field of innovation in tourism, doctors of science can contribute new insights to identify and meet the genuine needs of tourism, develop knowledge for competitive and responsible management of tourist enterprises and new approaches for the sustainable development of tourist destinations.

We present a programme that will enable in-depth and internationally oriented scientific research and develop new, interdisciplinary knowledge to promote innovation in tourism.

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1. General information about study programme

Name of programme: **Innovative Tourism**

Level of study programme: **3**

Type of study programme: **doctoral**

Duration: **three years (six semesters), 180 ECTS**

Professional title: **doctor of science,**
Abbreviation: PhD

Definition of study programme under KLASIUS-P: 8129 (**personal services**)

Definition of study areas under the ISCED classification: **81 – personal services**

Academic disciplines under the Frascati classification: **other**

2. Programme objectives

The aim of the study programme Innovative tourism on the 3rd level is to develop a doctoral degree graduate for the needs of tourism activities who will be qualified for both research and applied work in tourism. The programme will deliver specific knowledge and skills in the field of innovative tourism who will, taking into account all stakeholders and the environment responsibly, contribute to the increase of competitiveness of tourism services and products on Slovenian and international tourism market.

The aim of the programme is to give doctoral degree graduates an in-depth insight into the general/classical and particularly specific/current contents of tourism and methodological and research knowledge for the independent development of innovative solutions, creation of new knowledge and their application in practice, to run the most demanding commercial and non – commercial systems and scientific research projects covering wide range of professional and academic fields, and to develop critical reflection.

Among the major objectives of the programme, Innovative tourism also encourages students to continue study from the 1st to the 3rd level of study. General study of the 1st level is followed by specialist-oriented 2nd level programme *Tourism* degree, followed by a narrowly specialised 3rd level programme. Doctoral level graduates will be trained for independent research work. Their final work will represent a new contribution to science and after graduation enable productive employment as well as raise the quality of tourism.

3. Competencies of graduates

For reaching the goals of the study programme, students will develop the following general and subject-specific competencies:

3. 1. General competencies

- The ability to select and use appropriate scientific research methods, procedures and processes in a broad range of research problems in changing circumstances and the creation of new knowledge and solutions;
- Capacity for independent study, for the development of critical reflection, for the acquisition of social and communication skills, to assess current events and place them in a wider context for the interpretation and evaluation of social phenomena;
- The ability to use the acquired knowledge in practice – in specific areas of tourism and the ability of solving problems using scientific methods and procedures;
- The group leadership ability, cooperativeness and teamwork;
- Commitment to professional ethics and the ability for ethical reflection;
- The ability for critical understanding of concepts and scientific grounds and modern developments that guide students to analyse and solve the challenges and problems in tourism.

3.2. Subject-specific competencies

- ability for further independent and team research studies and independent study of various fundamental and applied issues in the field of tourism and novelty and innovation in tourism;
- an understanding of the general structure and interpretation of the fundamental disciplines of tourism and the connection between its sub-disciplines;
- mastery of theoretical problems of tourism profession and their solutions
- management of various research methods and ability of independent work with research and interpretive methods in the field of tourism;

- ability to conduct research in the field of tourism, with an emphasis on innovative approaches and creativity, and presentation of the results to the public;
- the development and use of research approaches to generate new knowledge;
- Implementation of action research and applied research in tourism phenomena, both at the local and regional level as well as in the international context;
- understanding how tourism systems operate in global social situations and the ability to analyse, synthesise, and anticipate solutions and consequences of events in the field of tourism;
- The ability to transfer theoretical and research knowledge in the field of tourism in a specific environment, the ability to integrate knowledge from different fields and its application in domestic and international business environments;
- Managing the communication process with the help of modern technology and the use of appropriate communication techniques between the different actors in a situation of interdependence to ensure the quality of tourism services, both locally and internationally.

4. International comparison of the study programme

In the analysis of international comparability of the study programme Innovative Tourism 4 doctoral study programmes of acknowledged universities from different countries have been included.

No.	Institution	Name of programme	Country
1.	University of Amherst, Isenberg School of Management	Ph.D. in Hospitality and Tourism Management	Massachusetts, USA
2.	Università degli studi di Palermo	Dottorato di ricerca in scienze di turismo	Palermo, Italy
3.	Sveučilište Jurja Dobrile u Puli	Poslijediplomski studij ekonomije - modul turizam	Pula, Croatia
4.	University of Exeter, Business School	Ph.D. in Tourism Studies	Exeter, UK

5. Curriculum

The 3rd level study programme Innovative tourism is designed as a three-year doctoral study. To successfully complete the study, the student has to collect 180 credits (ECTS). Each year student may collect 60 credits.

First year courses include the following: mandatory methodology (6 credits) Practicum for the preparation of the doctoral disposition (6 credits), three courses covering multidisciplinary tourism (18 credits) and work on a doctoral disposition (18 credits), two courses are optional (6 credits each). Elective courses are chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor, according to the selected doctoral theme.

In the second year, there are two compulsory courses covering writing and publishing of scientific texts (3 credits), and two covering the field of innovation in tourism (6 credits each), preparation and presentation of the doctoral disposition and work on the thesis (33 credits). Students also choose between two optional courses (12 credits).

The third year is intended for independent study and research work as well as preparation of the doctoral dissertation and its defence (60 credits).

Students may choose elective courses from the inner set of courses offered within the 3rd level study programme Innovative tourism.

Students can choose between internal and external courses.

Internal elective courses are courses that a student chooses within the curriculum Innovative Tourism.

Outside elective courses can be chosen by students from doctoral programs of Slovenian and foreign institutions of higher education.

6. Conditions for enrolment in the programme

The 3rd level doctoral programme Innovative tourism at the University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism Studies - Turistica is open to all candidates who meet the following conditions:

- a) 2nd level study programme degree; or
- b) Undergraduate university study programme degree (study program adopted before 1st June 2004); or
- c) 2nd level uniform master`s degree programme, when evaluated with 300 ECTS credits and lasted 5 years.

All candidates will have an oral interview in which the candidate will present his view on study, his ambitions and areas of interest.

In the case of limited enrolment, candidates will be selected according to the average grade of their previous studies and on the basis of the oral interview in which the following aspects will be evaluated: the candidate's curriculum vitae, any publications and previous work experiences and the conceptual design of the doctoral disposition.

7. Recognising knowledge acquired outside the study programme

On the 3rd level programme Innovative tourism also skills and knowledge acquired prior the enrolment in the study:

- Various forms of formal education leading to a qualification at postgraduate level,
- programs for training,
- the various forms of non-formal education.

Students demonstrate the knowledge acquired through formal education by certificates and other documents evidencing the content and scope of the student`s work in order for the knowledge and skills to be evaluated according to the ECTS system.

Individual applications for the recognition of knowledge and skills acquired prior to enrolment are examined and decided by the competent authority of the UP Faculty of tourism study - Turistica in accordance with rules on the recognition, adopted by the University of Primorska. The provisions on the recognition of knowledge and skills acquired

prior to enrolment in the study programme are also followed in the recognition of knowledge and skills acquired during studies, in case it is agreed in advance in the form of a learning agreement.

8. Conditions for progression through the programme

Enrolment in the next year:

Students can enrol into the 2nd year of study if they managed to complete the following courses from the 1st year: Research Methodology in Tourism, Business and Organizational Aspects of Tourism, Social Sciences and Humanities Perspectives of Tourism, Environmental Aspects of Tourism and the Practicum for Writing of Thesis Proposal (i.e. 30 ECTS acquired out of 60 ECTS).

The condition for advancing to the 3rd year is the accomplishment of all requirements from the 1st year and the completion of the following courses in the 2nd year: Management of Innovation, Innovation and Tourism, at least one of the elective courses and the submission and presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition (i.e. 51 ECTS acquired out 60 ECTS).

Exceptional enrolment in the next year:

In exceptional cases, students are allowed to enrol in the 2nd year if they managed to complete at least four of the abovementioned courses, which are a condition to enrol in the next year (i.e. at least 24 ECTS acquired out of 60 ECTS).

In exceptional cases, students are allowed to enrol in the 3rd year upon the accomplishment of all requirements from the 1st year and the completion of the following courses from the 2nd year: Management of Innovation, and Innovation and Tourism (i.e. 12 ECTS acquired out of 60 ECTS) or without the submission and presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition.

The missing obligations have to be fulfilled before the dissertation defence. Before the dissertation defence, students must also fulfil the obligation of publishing an article in a scientific journal in the frame of the subject Writing and Publishing of Scientific Texts. Students can apply for an exceptional enrolment if they have valid reasons: maternity, long-term illness, exceptional family and social circumstances, recognised status of a person with special needs, active participation at high-level professional, cultural and sport events, and active participation in university authorities. Students justify their valid reasons with appropriate documentation (medical certificate, decision of the Social Services Centre, family certificate, copy of maternity booklet). In such case, students present the application with a proper justification to the Commission for Academic Affairs for the 2nd and 3rd Level of UP FTŠ Turistica.

Repetition of the study year:

Students can repeat the year only once during their study period if they have not changed the study programme.

9. Conditions for transferring between programmes

Transfers between programmes are possible under the provisions of the *Higher Education Act, the criteria for transitions between programmes* and in accordance with other regulations governing the subject area.

The transfer between the study programmes is considered termination of the student's education in the first academic program the student is transferring from, and continuation

of their studies at another academic program to which the student is transferred to. In the transition, the comparability of the study program is taken into account as well as student workload performed in the first study programme.

According to transfer criteria students of related 3rd degree doctoral programme and those of master's degree study programme leading to a Master of Science (study programmes adopted before 11th June 2004) can enrol in the second and third year of the doctoral programme Innovative tourism, if the following conditions are met:

- The student is eligible for enrolment in the doctoral programme Innovative Tourism
- The study programme student is transferred from at the end of the study provides comparable skills as a doctoral program Innovative Tourism.
- Meets other criteria in accordance with the *Criteria for transitions between programmes* (comparable curriculum of the programme, completed all requirements of the student).

According to the *Criteria for transitions between programmes* students can enter the second year of the doctoral programme Innovative tourism if they are:

a) Graduates of master's degree study programmes leading to a Master of Science (adopted before 11th June 2004)

or

b) graduates of the study programmes leading to specialization, if the candidate previously completed a study programme leading to the university degree.

Individual applications for enrolment in accordance with the transfer criteria is examined by the Commission for Academic Affairs of the 2nd and 3rd degree studies that takes into account similarity and comparability of the study programme in accordance with the criteria for transitions between programmes. The commission responsible can also determine prerequisite exams for the candidates of the study.

According to the transfer criteria, students may enrol if they were students of related study program abroad and were in accordance with the law in the process of recognition of foreign qualifications granted the right to continue their study in the doctoral program in Innovative Tourism.

In the case of limited enrolment, candidates are selected according to the average grade of all completed coursework in the academic programme that candidate is transferred from.

10. Conditions for completion of the course

The prerequisite for the completion of the programme is the accomplishment of all study requirements, foreseen by the program (achieved 180 ECTS credits), i.e. all exams, individual research work undertaken, completed commitments in individual courses and a successful defence of the doctoral dissertation. The student completes his doctoral studies with the positive assessment of the doctoral dissertation and its defence. In exceptional cases, the study can be concluded, even if the doctoral student does not complete the obligation to publish a scientific article if the article is accepted for publication. In this case, the promotion in doctoral title is carried out after the publication of the article.

Preparation and presentation of the dissertation: Doctoral dissertation is prepared mainly through individual consultations between student and mentor. The dissertation is

copyright research work, that demonstrates student`s in-depth command of the theoretical and methodological concepts, student`s qualification to independently develop new knowledge and solve highly complex problems by testing and improving existing and developing new solutions. Doctoral dissertations are reviewed by the committee appointed by the Faculty.

The whole procedure is governed by the *Rules on the preparation and defence of the doctoral dissertation at the University of Primorska*.

Before the dissertation defence, students have to publish at least one original research paper in an indexed research journal.

After a successful defence of the doctoral dissertation, students receive a diploma, which is a public document.

11. Parts, which can be completed singly

The programme contains no parts, which can be completed singly.

12. The study programme reflects the employment needs of

Doctoral study graduates of the 3rd level study programme Innovative tourism can be employed in the following fields:

- research: independent management, scientific research and teaching in science and higher education research;
- economy: management positions in national and international tourism organisations, research/development department of tourism enterprises;
- public sector: the most demanding professional and managerial work in government (regional, local) organisations (LTO, RTO, NTO, ministries, government departments – for regional development)