

**Title of the Program:** Tourism and Hospitality Management

**Academic Degree Offered:** PhD in Business Administration

**Head of the PhD program:** Prof. Maya Margvelashvili

Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Business and Economics, Head of Tourism Department, 1117 Classroom Office Building X, 2, University Street, Tbilisi 0179, Georgia

Phone/Fax: (995 32) 30-35-11, E-mail: [tourism@tsu.ge](mailto:tourism@tsu.ge),

Website: [www.economics.tsu.ge](http://www.economics.tsu.ge)

**Qualification of the program:**

**a) Goals and Aims of the Program:** The purpose of the Doctoral Program in Tourism and Hospitality Management is to prepare candidates for academic careers in Hospitality and Tourism. The program is designed with a focus on the development of strong research skills enabling graduates to conduct and publish independent, original scholarly research with competence and confidence at the top hospitality and tourism programs in Georgia and abroad. The program will also provide candidates with the necessary content knowledge (in management and related business functional areas) to excel in university teaching in their areas of interest. The Tourism Department is one of six departments within the TSU Faculty of Business and Economics, and as such is a uniquely competitive, rigorous program for studying the tourism and hospitality management. The primary focus of doctoral candidates is on making scholarly contributions to the discipline. It is a three year program (180 ECTS) and requires a full time effort in residence. The curriculum has been specifically designed to enable doctoral students to receive a balanced Program that considers the management of tourism and hospitality taught by subject specialists at both strategic and local levels. Program consists of two parties: taught (60 ECTS) and research (120 ECTS) components. Candidates also serve as Teaching Assistants during a portion of the program (15 ECTS).

**b) Learning outcome:** Ph.D. degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management will be granted to candidates who gain fundamental knowledge, skills and complete dissertation with originality in problem solving, clear conclusions and defend them with appropriate knowledge and logical deductions. The skills areas students will develop during the taught courses of the Program include: Tourism and Hospitality Research Topics and Methods; Methodology for Quality in Tourism Education; Tourism, Creativity and Development; Tourism Destination Management; TSU Elective Courses, or Taught Courses in Foreign Accredited Universities. These skills are built upon and are developed through the course structure so that by the time the taught elements of the Program are completed students are well aware how to take on the challenge of writing a dissertation. Upon completion of the Program the students will become leaders in the field of tourism and hospitality, who are able to critically analyze ideas, responsibly transform and distribute them through publications, and apply them to practice by teaching practice. They will be able to accomplish three main aspects of knowledge and skills: knowledge and skills generation, conservation and transformation.

c) **Employment Opportunities** – Doctoral students who granted with Ph.D. degree from the Program would be prepared for highest positions in the public and private sectors of tourism and hospitality field, including top managerial positions, researcher positions and lecturing.

**Preconditions for Admission to the PhD Program:**

Ph.D. degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management recruits the most highly qualified candidates who offer the strongest potential for scholarly research. Admission standards are consistent with other Doctoral programs of the Faculty of Business and Economics. All candidates are expected to be graduates of accredited business, management, hospitality and/or tourism or related programs.

Applicants will be evaluated on such criteria as academic coursework and background, English Language knowledge (B2), letters of reference and professional experience. Based on the review of all application materials, candidates may be required to take additional coursework.

**Teaching Format**

- Seminar
- Colloquium

**Structure of the PhD Program:**

**Program Courses:**

#	Name	Status	ECTS
1	Research Methods	obligatory	5
2	Modern Teaching Methods	obligatory	5
3	Tourism, Creativity and Development	elective	5
4	Tourism Destination Management	elective	5
5	Doctoral Colloquiums I, II and III	obligatory	15
6	Assistant to Professor	obligatory	15
7	TSU Elective Courses	elective	10
8	Taught Courses in Foreign Accredited Universities	elective	10

**Doctoral Colloquiums:** Doctoral Colloquiums are important segments of the Program. At colloquiums a Ph.D. student is presenting research results, achievements and problem statements. Colloquiums are giving opportunity to monitor research progress. This progress is reviewed and discussed by the Faculty.

**Research Component:** Theme for the PhD thesis will be selected by Doctoral student together with Program leader. The Thesis has to demonstrate students’ ability to set up and to carry out a scientific research project in a self-responsible and independent manner. This includes:

- to provide an adequate description and definition of a research topic,
- to build a sound theoretical framework for research orientation,

- to collect data in a systematic and verifiable manner,
- to analyze the data critically and correctly,
- to present results in a comprehensible manner,
- to draw sound conclusions based on a comprehensive discussion of the results, and
- to show the potential contribution of research to the process of theoretical reconstruction of the topic.

Doctoral Thesis – 120 credits

**Facilities for the scientific research:** To conduct research component of the program students will be provided with free access to ISET and Tourism Department Libraries, access to computers and internet.