



НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
«КИЄВО-МОГИЛЯНСЬКА АКАДЕМІЯ»

What are current challenges of doing doctoral research in Ukraine?

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Doctoral Education in Ukraine: from Soviet past to modern times

- **Soviet system of doctoral education:**
- Two tier research degree: 1) candidate of science; 2) doctor of science;
- Three core exams and subjects for all doctoral students (philosophy; foreign language; and profession);
- Public defense (viva) takes place in front of a “Scientific Council” (10-20 senior academics) not necessarily familiar with the subject matter of research;
- Wide-spread corruption is an inherent feature of this system.

Contemporary Reform of Doctoral Education in Ukraine: one step forward and two steps back

- two tier system of research degrees remains in place: PhD and Doctor of Science;
- Number of courses to be taken by doctoral students has significantly increased (theoretical and practical);
- Public defense (viva) takes place in front of a small ad hoc Council (with publications and research related to the topic of the thesis);
- No evidence of corruption yet 😊.

Gains and shortcomings of the doctoral study reform in Ukraine

- More focused and specialized Scientific Council sits at the viva and admits the thesis;
- Less corruption;
- More workload of various courses on doctoral students;
- Not easy to find well-qualified members of the Council who are competent in the topic of the thesis.