UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY

METHODOLOGY AND METHODS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

A PH.D. LEVEL COURSE

GUIDELINES FOR THE EXAM

The exam is in a written form. Each student writes an essay addressing the following issues related to their Ph.D. thesis:

1. Formulating a research question and a scientific problem. Choosing a topic of a Ph.D. dissertation. Significance of the topic. Individual motivation for choosing the topic. Positioning of the topic within the contemporary set of issues. A working title of the thesis and working hypotheses. Likelihood of achieving a scientific and practical contribution.

2. The goals, subject and object of the thesis. Main goal and its decomposition into aims and immediate targets. The cycle of the study. A preliminary structure of the thesis.

3. A characteristic of the object of the study. Boundaries of the object. Designing a system of measurements and indicators for analysis, estimation and forecasting the object of analysis.

4. The subject of the thesis. What are its boundaries and limitations? What is the field of study and the movements between and across disciplines? The links between the title, the unit of analysis, subject matter, main goals, and working hypothesis.

5. Approaches to doing research work and methods to investigate the specific topic at hand. Key literature sources. Protecting the results from research work.

GRADING

Each of the 5 components above is graded with up to 20 points, for a total maximum of 100 points. Then, depending on the total score, there are five possible grades a student can receive, ranging from Fail (2) to Excellent (6). The specific grade will be assigned according to the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Excellent /6/ | Very good /5/ | Good /4/ | Weak pass /3/ | Fail /2/ |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **FX** | **F** |
| **89-100** | **76-88** | **66-75** | **63-65** | **61-62** | **51-60** | **До 50** |
| The student receives 10 ESTC credits. | No credits are received. |

The minimum passing grade to ensure transferability of ESTC credits, is Good (4).