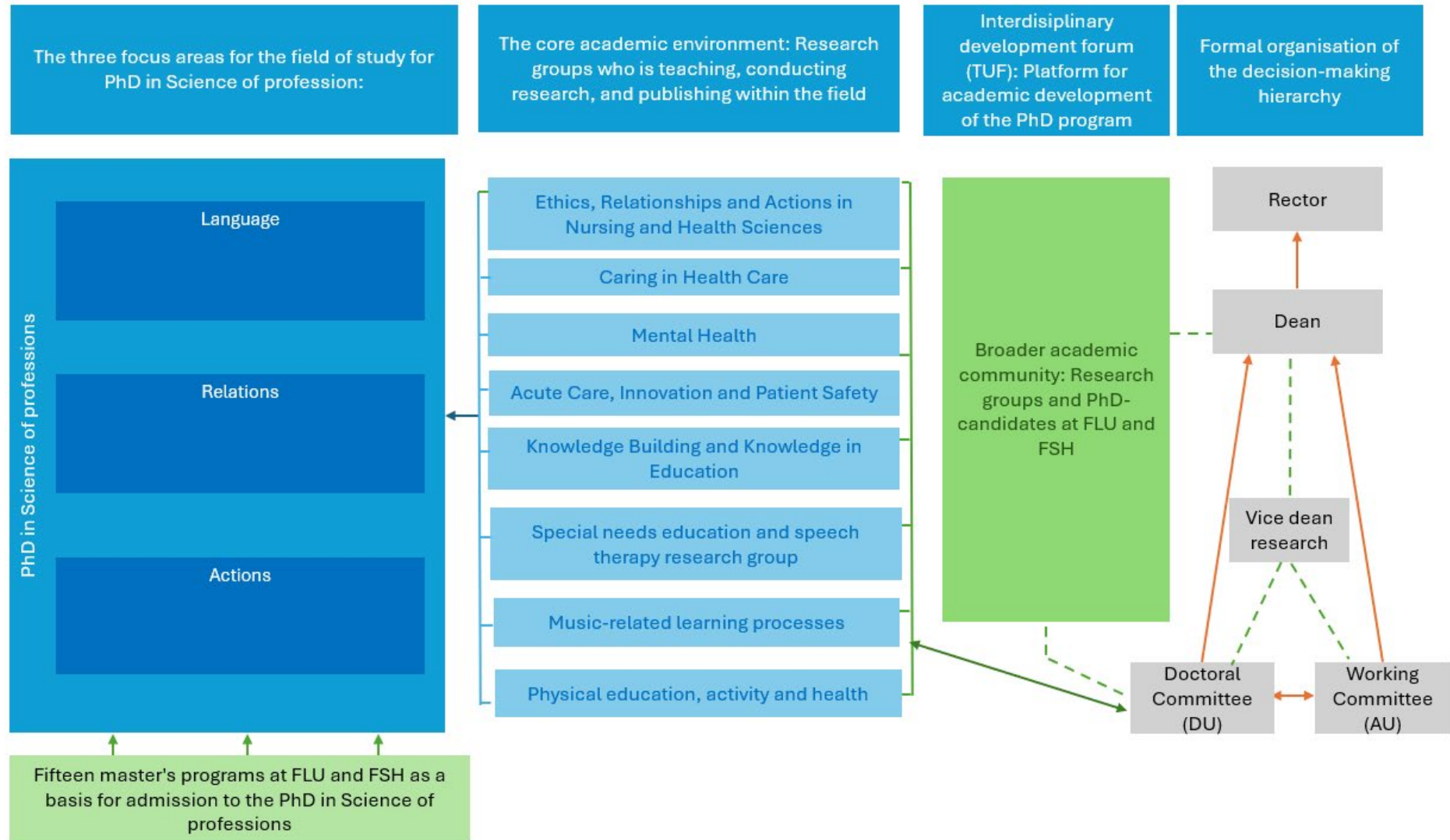


Organizational model for the PhD programme in Science of Professions



Organizational model for the PhD in Science of Professions.

The program consists of one academic field: a core academic environment and a platform for academic development. The Doctoral Committee (DU) is responsible for the strategic development of the programme and is chaired by the Programme Director (SPA). The Working Committee (AU) is responsible for the programme's daily operations, delegated by the DU, and is also chaired by the SPA.

Academic Field of the PhD Programme in Science of Professions

The PhD in Science of Professions is nationally and internationally profiled within areas of professional science that address language, relationships, and actions in developmental, educational, and socially relevant contexts. Science of Professions is highlighted as a practice-oriented empirical and theoretical field within several academic disciplines, with particular emphasis on professions for which FLU and FSH offer master's degree programmes (see below).

Master's Programmes at Both Faculties as a Basis for Admission to the PhD Programme

These are the academic master's programmes offered by FLU and FSH that qualify for admission to the PhD in Science of Professions. The programmes support one or more of the focus areas: language, action, and relationship. The faculties will also offer other master's programmes, both academic and experience based.

There are fifteen academic master's programs as of Spring 2025:

- Master in Clinical Nursing
- Master in Health Science
- Master in Specialized Nursing
- Master in Adapted Education
- Master in Primary and Lower Secondary Teacher Education Years 1-7
- Master in Primary teacher education grades 5-10
- Master in Sami primary teacher education 1-7 (South-Sami)
- Master in Sami primary teacher education 1-7 (Lule-Sami)
- Physical Education and Sports with Teacher Education (Master)
- Practical and aesthetical teacher education for levels 1-13 (Master)
- Science in Physical Education, master's degree
- Speech Therapy (Master)
- Master's in music with ensemble conducting

Deans Decision 20 August 2025

- Master in Kindergarten teacher
- Master's in special education

Core Academic Environment: Research Groups Teaching, Researching, and Publishing in the Academic Field

The PhD programme advances practice-oriented, profession-focused research and theory, thereby contributing to the development of the national and international knowledge base concerning professional understanding of language, relationships, and actions.

The programme is composed of various academic and research disciplines, making it both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. This structure enables diverse professional and epistemological inquiries, incorporating practice-based studies across professions, where the critical, analytical, systematic, rigorous, and transparent nature of scientific inquiry is central.

The research groups that form the core of academic development and research within the field of the PhD in Science of Professions are organized around a shared overarching research theme and address the programme's focus areas to varying degrees. These core research groups must consistently maintain a sufficiently large and stable academic environment with adequate scholarly expertise to cover the full breadth and depth of the PhD in Science of Professions.

The leaders of, or a professor from, the research groups constituting the core academic environment will also serve as representatives on the PhD Doctoral Committee.

The Research Groups are:

- Ethics, Relationships and Actions in Nursing and Health Sciences
- Caring in Health Care
- Mental Health
- Acute care, Innovation and Patient Safety
- Knowledge Building and Knowledge in Education
- Special needs education and speech therapy research group
- Music-related learning processes
- Physical education, activity and health

Interdisciplinary Development Forum (TUF)

The Interdisciplinary Development Forum (TUF) serves as the academic platform for the academic development of the PhD programme. It is intended as an arena for interdisciplinary advancement of science of professions and cross-disciplinary development of the PhD programme, bridging the formal organizational structure and the research groups and PhD candidates at FLU and FSH.

The established TUF is tasked with further developing the depth, breadth, and delineation of the academic field. It is an arena for all who conduct research and publish within the core of the academic field or are otherwise affiliated with the PhD in Science of Professions. TUF aims to ensure that research in science of professions maintains a high international standard and that the research associated with the PhD programme contributes to knowledge development at the national and international research front in science of professions. TUF operates under its own mandate.

TUF activities are open to all interested parties, allowing supervisors, PhD candidates, and individuals pursuing academic career paths at both faculties to participate in scholarly debates in a broad format.

In addition to serving as a platform for academic development of the programme's field, TUF also reports its activities and maintains close dialogue with the PhD Doctoral Committee (DU) and the strategic development of the programme through research group representatives who participate in both TUF and DU. DU is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the forum's activities.

Examples of TUF activities include seminars, discussion groups, conferences, and paper presentations.

A Working Committee for TUF organizes and implements TUF activities. The committee is chaired by the Assistant Programme Director (SPA), with the Vice Chair being the Vice Dean of Research from the faculty hosting the SPA. The working committee also includes up to six members and up to two deputy members from the research groups at FLU and FSH, with equal representation from both faculties. The research groups represented in TUF's Working Committee originate from what is referred to in the model as the 'broader academic environment' and must consist of active researchers producing scholarly work within language, relationships, and actions, as described in the programme description for the PhD in Science of Professions. The Working Committee for TUF receives administrative support (secretary) from the Working Committee (AU) for PhD.

Formal Organization of the Decision-Making Hierarchy

The PhD Doctoral Committee (DU) operates under its own mandate and is responsible for the strategic development of the PhD in Science of Professions. DU is chaired by the Programme Director (SPA), with the Assistant Programme Director serving as Deputy Chair. Both are professors employed at different faculties. In addition to these, the committee includes seven research group leaders from core focus areas, both Vice Deans of Research, one PhD candidate

Deans Decision 20 August 2025

from each faculty, and an administrative coordinator. DU meets approximately twice per semester and keeps the Dean informed of its activities. It issues Dean-level decisions when necessary.

The Working Committee (AU) is responsible for the daily operations of the programme. Its members include the SPA, the Assistant SPA, and the PhD administrative coordinators from each faculty. AU issues Dean-level decisions in cases where it has delegated authority and keeps DU informed of its activities. The Vice Dean of Research steps in if the SPA or Assistant SPA is disqualified or if additional academic expertise is required.

The Dean has delegated responsibility for the organization and implementation of the PhD programme, approves the curriculum and course descriptions, and ensures that the programme complies with both local and national regulations. The Dean is also responsible for aligning the programme with the faculty's action plan and the university's strategic goals.

The Deans of the two faculties alternate leadership responsibilities to streamline case processing and clarify the leadership of the PhD programme. The Dean's term of responsibility is two years. As far as possible, the responsible Dean and the SPA should belong to different faculties. The Dean is responsible for keeping the Rector informed.

The Rector holds overall responsibility for ensuring that PhD programs are run efficiently and meet requirements such as throughput and completion. The University Board ensures that the programme complies with applicable regulations and laws and is kept informed by the Rector.

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Deans Decision 20 August 2025

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