

final examination

prerequisites

The following prerequisites must be met for the final examination:

- a thesis with a pass grade
- completion of the 180 credit Study Unit List sequenced as required by SEAS and the Faculty (recorded in the pre-degree certificate/'abszolutúrium' in Hungarian)
- completing *all* the prerequisites at least 3 days before the final examination (the *final* examination is your final examination)

the purpose

The purpose of the Final Examination is for the candidate to show

- the ability to defend (argue intelligently for) their views expressed in the thesis against an expert in the field
- the extent of knowledge acquired in the fields of the main and subsidiary topics during their BA studies
- the ability to use English in a formal academic environment in front of a committee of 4 or 5 members

the components

BA degree

The BA final examination consists of three parts:

- defence of the thesis,
- elaboration of a question covering one aspect the main **topic** and
- elaboration of a question covering one aspect of the subsidiary **topic**

The examiners also assess the candidate's language proficiency.

main topic

The main topic was duly recorded on the thesis title submission form by the Head of Department. It can only come from the subjects areas available in the candidate's track (English or American) and must come from the (broad) subject area of the thesis. There are 12 questions in any one of the subject areas. The question that comes closest to the topic of the thesis *may* be removed from the pool of questions.

Note that all 12 questions of a subject area must be covered in the preparation for the Final Examination as it is the luck of the draw which decides which question will have to be elaborated upon. The topic that you draw may coincide with the subject matter of your thesis.

subsidiary topic

The subsidiary topic has to be put on record in the semester in which the candidate plans to take their final examination. Theoretically, the subsidiary topic can come from any of the subject areas of the two tracks (English and American), but we strongly suggest the candidate should choose from the track in which they have pursued their studies.

MA degree

The MA final examination consists of two parts:

- the defence of the thesis by the candidate, based on the referee's report
- a discussion of a [topic](#) the candidate draws and presents without preparation, the topic is from the general subject area approved by the relevant department and specified on the candidate's thesis title submission form, approved by head of the relevant department

grades awarded at the final examination

The committee ascertains how adept the candidate is at forming opinions on academic matters in fluent and stylistically appropriate and adequate English in a formal environment. The grades are awarded by the head of committee on the recommendations of the members of the committee.

If any of the grades is insufficient (a fail, '1'), the final examination will be declared as failed. The final examination in the failed component(s) may be attempted the following semester at the earliest.

BA degree

- grade of the thesis (the referee's grade is thus made official by the Committee)
- defence of the thesis (the defence is based on the questions and remarks of the referee)
- main topic
- subsidiary topic
- language proficiency

MA degree

- grade for the defence of the thesis
- grade for the discussion of the topic

degree certificate

BA degree

The degree certificate states the scale of achievement attained at the final examination. The average is calculated by the committee on the basis of the following 5 grades:

1. thesis
2. defence
3. main topic
4. subsidiary topic
5. language proficiency

MA degree

The degree certificate states the weighted average of the grade received on the final examination (F) and the grade for the thesis (T) according to the following formula: $(F \times 0.45) + (T \times 0.55)$. The average is calculated by the Registrar, NOT the Examination Committee. Some sample calculations follow:

F	T	average	grade
4	5	$(4 \times 0.45) + (5 \times 0.55) = 4.55$	5 = excellent/jeles
5	4	$(5 \times 0.45) + (4 \times 0.55) = 4.45$	4 = good/jó

conversion

The average of your grades is converted to the final grade as follows:

average of grades	final grade
2.00-2.50	2 (elégséges/pass)
2.51-3.50	3 (közepes/satisfactory)
3.51-4.50	4 (jó/good)
4.51-4.99	5 (jeles/excellent)
5.00	5 (outstanding)

The cumulative (or any other) average of the individual semesters is *not* taken into account for the grade of the degree certificate. The average will, however, show up in the detailed transcript of records that you will get alongside your degree certificate and diploma supplement.

The degree can only be conferred on those

- who have returned all University property (this is recorded using [this form](#))
- who have no outstanding financial obligations (such as tuition fees) towards ELTE

MA students must also be

- in possession of a certificate for the required foreign language examination

degree with honours

The candidate will receive a degree with honours if the following conditions are satisfied (as set out in par. 84, sec. 9 of the Organisational and Operational Regulations of ELTE):

- the result of the final examination is 5.00
- the result of the thesis, as well as the teaching practice/internship, proficiency examination(s), comprehensive examination(s) is 5 (excellent)
- the average of grades for all practical classes (seminars) and lectures in every semester is at least 4.51 and
- no grade received is below 4 (good).

In case of retakes attempted in the same semester, the original grade will be disregarded.

equivalence

The BA degree in English and American Studies is equivalent to proficiency exam in English ('felsőfokú C') according to law (required for application to MA in English/American Studies).

More information about thesis writing and final examinations:

BA Students: <http://seaswiki.elte.hu/studies/BA/major/graduation>

MA Students:

American studies: <http://seaswiki.elte.hu/studies/MA/American/Graduation>

English studies: <http://seaswiki.elte.hu/studies/MA/English/graduation>

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