

## **Description and objectives**

The “History of Science and Scientific Communication” Doctoral Programme at the López Piñero Institute for the History of Medicine and Science is the successor to the programme formerly taught by the Department of History of Science and Documentation, affiliated to the Institute, which was the first of its kind in Spain. This doctorate centres on an internationally recognised area of academic study, as there are similar programmes at other universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, France and Germany. It offers a route for those who have taken our “History of Science and Scientific Communication” master’s degree, or similar postgraduate courses at other universities and institutions, to become specialists and professionals in the field, and is open to candidates holding a degree in any subject, especially in health science, science, history, language and literature, journalism, audiovisual communication, humanities, education, library and information science, art history and translation and interpreting.

The resources of the Institute for the History of Medicine and Science include:

- a teaching staff with a long and well-established tradition of research and teaching in science studies going back almost thirty years. It comprises researchers specialising in the history of medicine and science, initially trained in history, language and literature, medicine, physics and chemistry, among other fields, which promotes an interdisciplinary approach and fosters innovative research perspectives. This is very unusual in Spain, because in this country, unlike others such as the USA, Britain or Germany, it is rare to find university departments or research institutes whose staff possess such a wide range of academic backgrounds.
- a magnificent collection of medical and scientific printed books from the sixteenth century to the present day (the Historical Medical Library), including an excellent set of medical books and periodicals. The Institute also has a specialist library on the history of medicine and science containing over 10,000 volumes and the leading research journals in the field.

- a collection of historical medical and scientific instruments, some of which will be displayed in the Museum of the History of Medicine and Science.

For all these reasons the Institute is a unique institution with exceptional features not found elsewhere in Spain.

The general objective of this doctorate is to construct a multidisciplinary academic space centred on *social studies of science* (known as science studies in British and American universities), which include the philosophy and sociology of science, the history of medicine and science, medical and scientific language, scientific documentation and information and the communication and dissemination of science. The programme is articulated around a group of subjects that aim to provide a wide-ranging, plural and cohesive analysis of the historical, social, cultural, linguistic, communicative and cognitive aspects of medicine, science and technology, their products and their contents. Analysis of present-day scientific and technological reality needs to be complemented by a historical dimension to enable us to reach a proper understanding of this highly complex subject. So the distinctive feature of this doctorate is that it offers students a multidisciplinary training that allows them to approach scientific reality from a cohesive perspective through a comprehensive understanding of the problem.

## **Access and admission**

### **Access**

Access to the Doctoral Programme in the research phase of postgraduate study is conditional upon possession of an official university master's degree or an equivalent qualification awarded by a higher education institution in the European Higher Education Area. Those who hold degrees obtained in education systems outside the European Higher Education Area can also be admitted, without having to have them officially accredited by the Spanish authorities; any such degree will, however, be checked to confirm that it provides evidence of an educational level equivalent to

corresponding Spanish university master's degrees and that it qualifies the holder for access to doctoral study in the country in which it was awarded. Access via this process will in no case constitute official accreditation of the previous degree held by the candidate nor recognition of such a degree for purposes other than the pursuit of doctoral study.

In addition, access in the research phase can be granted to those who have fulfilled any of the following conditions:

- a) Attainment of at least 60 credits in one or more university master's degree courses.
- b) Possession of the Spanish Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA), obtained in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 778 of 30 April 1998, or attainment of the research proficiency certificate as stipulated in Royal Decree 185 of 23 January 1985.
- c) Possession of a bachelor's degree of a duration equivalent to at least 300 credits, as defined in European Community law.

## **Admission**

Candidates who meet these conditions will be admitted to the Doctoral Programme in their research phase, subject to the following specific admission requirements and selection criteria:

### *1. Specific admission requirements*

- Possession of the degree of Master of History of Science and Scientific Communication.
- Candidates who have completed other master's degrees or postgraduate courses related to the history of science and science communication offered by other Spanish and foreign universities may also be admitted, subject to a favourable report from the appropriate committee.

### *2. Selection criteria*

The selection criteria will be the marks/grades achieved in courses taken during the master's degree programme and the Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA). In addition, the general criteria for admission to the Master of History of Science and Scientific

Communication programme taught by the López Piñero Institute for the History of Medicine and Science may be applied if this is considered necessary:

- Average mark/grade in academic record
- Graduate assistantships/studentships
- Courses taken
- Research merits (publications, attendance at and participation in academic conferences and meetings, participation in research projects)
- Work experience

The body responsible for student admissions will be the Doctoral Coordinating Committee (CCD), as stipulated in articles 30 and 35 of the Regulations governing Official Postgraduate Studies at the University of Valencia.

## **Research fields**

History of science

History of medicine

Development of botany and dissemination of knowledge of plants in sixteenth-century Europe

Healthcare and medical practice in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

Science in the classroom: textbooks, teaching methods and major figures (nineteenth and twentieth centuries)

The material culture of science (nineteenth and twentieth centuries)

Science, medicine and crime: toxicology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Experts, surveys and civic epistemologies in contemporary societies (nineteenth and twentieth centuries)

Interdisciplinarity in science

History of science in ancient India

Cosmology and astronomy in ancient India

History of medicine in ancient India

Medical literature in ancient India: Ayurveda

History of contemporary medicine

History of illness

History of medical microbiology

History of hospitals

The international public health movement (nineteenth and twentieth centuries)

Nutrition and health in contemporary Europe

Rural healthcare in contemporary Europe

The transfer of scientific knowledge on health and its political economy

Spanish republican scientists in exile

Science communication and journalism

Social communication of science and technology

Rhetoric of public discourses of science

Rhetoric of scientific discourse in social media

Scientific film and TV documentaries

History of science communication and journalism

Quantitative analysis of science and technology

Analysis of scientific activity and of individual and collaborative research output

Analysis, evaluation and monitoring of scientific and academic activity in Spain

Application of social network analysis to science studies

Scientific collaboration: collaborative groups and networks

Bibliometric indicators for the study of science and scientific activity