



**orpheus**  
QUALITY IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

# 2025

## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



# ORPHEUS

## Conference

### ADAPTING ACADEMIA

Navigating PhD Programs Amidst World  
Crises and Changes

**10th - 12th April**  
Cavtat, Croatia

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### TECHNICAL ORGANIZER

Travelspot LLC | <https://www.travelspot.com>  
Zagrebacka 1, HR-31000 Osijek

### VENUE

Hotel "Croatia", Cavtat  
Frankopanska ulica  
20210 Cavtat  
CROATIA

### BOOK TITLE:

**Book of Abstract. ORPHEUS 2025 Conference „ Adapting Academia:  
Navigating PhD Programs amidst World Crises and Changes”**

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## FREE COMMUNICATIONS

The moderators of the sessions, recognized experts in science and didactics, constitute the competition committee, which, together with the evaluations of the abstract reviewers, determines the final outcome of the scientific competition of doctoral students. Winners receive awards, encouraging excellence in scientific communication.

As a recurring annual event, the conference ensures continuous support for doctoral development, tracks evolving educational needs, and identifies key challenges in doctoral training. It also generates recommendations for improving curricula.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE CURRICULUM OF PHD STUDENTS IN UKRAINE

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Proficiency in English as a foreign language is a fundamental requirement for admission to medical PhD programs in Ukraine. Many medical PhD students demonstrate limited proficiency in English during their studies. Medical PhD students rarely choose to study alternative foreign languages, such as German or Polish.

This study analyzed 344 medical PhD students enrolled in 2023 and 2024. The objective of the study was to identify factors associated with high academic performance in English. Variables examined included gender, age, initial proficiency in English, and academic performance.

Out of the 244 students analyzed (mean age: 30.1 years; range: 24–56 years; 64% male and 36% female), the average initial English grade was 4.1 on a 5-point scale. Among the 179 students enrolled in 2024, all scored at least 130 out of 200 points on the Common Entrance Examination. The overall academic performance revealed the following outcomes: 20 students (5.8%) failed (grades D or F); 80 students (23.2%) achieved a satisfactory grade (C); 110 students (32%) earned a good grade (B); and 104 students (30.2%) attained an excellent grade (A). A plausible positive correlation was observed between initial English proficiency (average score: 4.1) and final academic success. Over 29% of medical PhD students exhibited suboptimal proficiency in academic and medical English. These challenges could stem from the decreased motivation, as well as a persistent misconception of poor English knowledge significance.

To enhance the curriculum, in 2024, Bogomolets NMU will introduce an additional English course for medical PhD students—the B2 examination course.