**The Departmental Protocol for the Direct Track Doctorate at the School of Cultural Studies**

1. **Requirements for the Direct Track**

Students may be accepted as candidates for the Direct Track Doctorate in one of two ways:

* 1. A *cum laude* B.A. graduate (with a grade of at least 95) will be accepted as a **Provisional Stage One Research Student in the Direct Track**, with the following conditions:
		1. The student must receive, in advance, a written agreement of supervision from a faculty member authorized to supervise research students.
		2. Students who required supplementary studies in order to be accepted to M.A. studies will not be eligible for acceptance to the Direct Track.

The student’s acceptance as a Stage One Research Student Candidate in the Direct Track (not Provisional) is contingent upon successful completion of the following educational requirements:

With the student’s acceptance as a Provisional Stage One Candidate, the supervisor must assemble a personal study plan consisting of 28 hours from the Master’s program. The plan will be brought before the School of Cultural Studies’ Research Student Committee. During the provisional period, which will last a maximum of three semesters, the student must complete 20 hours (seminars) from the plan with an average score of at least 90, and must write two seminar papers scored 90 each.

* 1. A *cum laude* Master’s student may be accepted as a “**Stage One Research Student Candidate in the Direct Track**” under the following conditions:
		1. If they have completed an average of 20 hours with a minimum grade average of 90 during two semesters of their Master’s studies (consecutively, and adjacent to the application to the Direct Track), or by the end of their third semester at the very latest. In addition, the student must have written two seminar papers, each graded at least 90, during the same period.
		2. The student has received written agreement from a faculty member authorized to supervise research students.
1. **Requirements to Transition from “Stage One Research Student Candidate” to “Stage One Research Student in the Direct Track”**
	1. Students who have been accepted as candidates to “Provisional Stage One” (section 1a): After completing all study requirements of the “Provisional” candidacy period (as detailed in section 1a), and during the fourth semester at the very latest, the student will undertake a competency examination (detailed in section 3 below). Completing all these requirements are mandatory for the student’s receipt of the “Stage One Research Student in the Direct Track” status.
	2. M.A. students accepted as “Stage One” candidates (section 1b) will become “Stage One Research Students in the Direct Track” after completing the competency exam (as detailed in section 3 below) no later than the conclusion of the fourth semester of their Masters’ studies.
2. **The Competency Exam**

A committee will oversee the exam, comprised of the supervisor (who will serve as chair) and two additional faculty members, at least one of whom is not from the supervisor’s department. In the event that supervision is being conducted by two supervisors, the committee will be comprised of both supervisors, with one serving as chair, and two more faculty members, at least one of whom is not from either supervisor’s department. This committee will also assemble the bibliography for the exam. The supervisor will provide the Program Committee for Research Students with the names of the additional testers and reading material, for the Committee’s approval. The competency exam will test the student’s proficiency and skill with the research field they have chosen. The exam will be conducted orally, and a report will be composed by the supervisor (with the approval of the other members) and submitted to the Program Committee for Research Students.

1. **Requirements during Stage One**
	1. The student must submit a research proposal within one year of acceptance to Stage One.
	2. The student must take an additional 8 hours (active participation) within two years of acceptance to Stage One, thus completing their allotment of hours for the Direct Track doctorate (28 hours in total). Attention: students interested in receiving a non-thesis M.A. during their doctoral studies (see section 5 below), must take 4 hours (of the 8) and receive grades of at least 90.
	3. The student must demonstrate fluency in a second foreign language (exempt-level) within two years of acceptance to Stage One (as detailed in section 65 of the University Protocols).

The student’s transition to Stage Two Research Student is contingent upon the approval of the research plan by the School’s Research Students Committee.

1. **Non-Thesis Master’s Degree Eligibility for Stage Two Students in the Direct Track**

Direct Track students continuing on into doctoral studies may receive a non-thesis Master’s degree after being accepted as a Stage Two Research Student, and after meeting the following requirements:

	1. The student has completed a study quota of 20 hours and has written two seminar papers, per the stated requirements (detailed in section 4b).
	2. The student has passed a competency exam (detailed in section 3)
	3. The student’s research plan has been approved
	4. The student has demonstrated exemption-level fluency in a second foreign language.