

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE PhD DEGREE IN RELIGION, ETHICS AND SOCIETY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AGDER

Adopted by the Board of Agder University College on 20 June 2006.

The sections below refer to the corresponding sections of the Regulations for the Degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Agder.

2. Admission

2.1 Applicants' formal qualifications

Applicants for the PhD programme must meet one of the following requirements:

- Hold a higher degree in theology, Christian knowledge, science of religion or philosophy;
- Hold a higher degree in education or health and social studies;
- Hold a higher degree in sociology;
- Other educational background or real competence considered by the Faculty to be equal to the above requirements with respect to scope, level and content.

In addition, all applicants are required to document sufficient previous knowledge in social-scientific methodology. Applicants planning to write a dissertation in the field of ethics must be able to document sufficient and relevant previous knowledge of ethics. Applicants planning to write a dissertation in the field of religion must be able to document sufficient and relevant previous knowledge of religion. The content and scope of such required previous knowledge will be decided on the basis of the theme and special field of the dissertation.

Applicants considered to have insufficient previous knowledge of social-scientific methodology, ethics or relevant religious subjects may be required to take additional examinations at a lower level, or will be given a reading list and be tested by writing a paper that must be approved, or by taking an oral examination. In the event of insufficient previous knowledge at the time of admission, the required previous knowledge shall normally be tested and approved in the course of the first six months after admission. Required additional examinations, if any, do not involve any extension of the agreed time frame.

2.2 Application and admission

Applications are to be written on a special form and be submitted to the Faculty. A preliminary maximum four-page outline of the dissertation should accompany the application and form part of the basis for admission.

Applications shall be considered and decided by the Faculty Board on the basis of a recommendation from the Faculty Research and Research Education Committee (hereinafter called the Research Committee) pursuant to the provisions in force at any time relating to the application's academic level, scope and progression. The Research Committee must find an appropriate supervisor and, if relevant, a co-supervisor, and the Faculty must ensure that all material resources required are available. A more comprehensive project description of approximately ten pages should be prepared in consultation with the supervisor, and normally be approved by the supervisor within six months after admission.

3. Agreement

An agreement about the doctoral student's rights and duties is to be signed by the student, the supervisor(s) and the Dean. Any substantial changes to the agreed terms are subject to approval

by the Faculty on the basis of a recommendation from the Research Committee.

4. The PhD programme

4.2 The training component

The objective of the doctoral degree work is to continue the academic and scientific training from the Master's degree programme or equivalent, and to take the PhD candidate up to the research front in the relevant subject area. This will be done primarily through the candidate's work on the dissertation, but also through active participation in a training component.

The purpose of the training component is on the one hand to provide support for the student's work on his/her dissertation, in particular with respect to providing insight into fundamental problems and theoretical-methodological issues, and on the other hand to provide the student with a broader academic perspective and thus prepare him/her for future academic work. The broader perspective is taken care of through training in the theory of science and methodology. The responsibility for providing instruction lies with the Faculty of Humanities.

The training component shall comprise a minimum of 30 credits. Details on the training component are found in the curriculum and module descriptions.

A PhD student who carries out a substantial part of his/her PhD training abroad, shall give an account of the instruction received there, and may apply to the Faculty of Humanities for having this approved as part of the training component. National or international research courses provided by recognised specialist communities and at PhD level may be included in the training component. In addition, a special syllabus in the form of literary or methodological studies relevant to the research project may be included. A description of subjects taken in the form of a special syllabus shall be provided on a special form with information about content, level, scope and examination form. All modules and courses to be included in the training component must have a final assessment.

For examinations in the theoretical syllabus, a *pass* or *fail* is awarded. A *pass* indicates a high academic level.

The Faculty considers applications for approval of research dissemination or external courses as parts of the training component.

The training component must be completed and passed in its entirety before the candidate may apply to the Faculty to have his/her dissertation evaluated.

Examinations taken more than 5 years before admission can normally not be included in the training component. It is a condition that modules/courses included in the training component were not used as a basis for admission or formed part of previously completed units of study.

If a candidate fails one of the examinations in the training component a new examination can first be taken the following semester. The same applies in the event of failure to meet certain requirements relating to previous knowledge, or non-approval of the extended project description.

4.3 Supervision

The Faculty shall appoint a supervisor and, if relevant, a co-supervisor on the basis of a proposal

from the Research Committee. The Research Committee is responsible for the follow-up of the PhD student. The student and the supervisor shall prepare a progress report every year.

The PhD programme is a supervised research education programme. Consequently, the candidate should be present at the University during the greater part of the course of study unless otherwise required due to special circumstances.

5. Dissertation

The dissertation shall include a summary. If the dissertation is written in Norwegian, Swedish or Danish, the summary shall be in English. If the dissertation is written in English or another language, the summary shall be in Norwegian, Swedish or Danish.

7. Submission

Application for having the dissertation evaluated shall be submitted to the Faculty. Applications shall be accompanied by five copies of the dissertation. If the dissertation is found to be worthy of public defence, another 50 copies of the dissertation must be submitted.

8. Appointment of evaluation committee

The members of the evaluation committee shall be appointed by the Faculty.

9. The committee's report and further procedure

The report from the evaluation committee shall be considered by the Faculty Board. The Dean may approve a committee report when a unanimous committee has concluded that the PhD candidate may be given permission to defend his/her dissertation.