

Regulations for the degree of Doctor Philosophiae (Dr. Philos.) at the University of Agder

Laid down by the Board of the University of Agder on 23 February 2010 pursuant to the provisions of Act no. 15 of 1 April 2005 relating to Universities and University Colleges.

Section 1 Objectives

The degree of doctor philosophiae (Dr. Philos.) shall qualify the candidate for research activities and for other employment in society for which a high level of scientific insight and method is required.

Section 2 The right to apply for entry

Those who have completed a higher degree have the right to apply for the Dr. Philos examination.

The faculty may grant the right to apply for entry to the doctoral degree examination to applicants who can prove equivalent qualifications in the current discipline. The thesis shall not be evaluated until such entry has been granted. The faculty evaluates the applicant's prior qualifications and makes a recommendation based on documentation of previous studies and scientific works, cf. Section 5, paragraph 1. In such cases, the faculty may require applicants to complete additional special courses and/or to pass a special test before permission is granted for the thesis to be evaluated. The application must be submitted together with the doctoral thesis.

Those who are not Norwegian citizens are entitled to take the examination if the faculty grants permission after a justified application and recommendation from the department or academic environment in question. Such entitlement is preferably granted if the thesis

- Addresses topics or is based on material that is directly connected to Norway
- Has a strong affiliation to Norwegian research in the subject area
- Has been carried out during a stay at a Norwegian university or research institute, or through specific contact with Norwegian researchers, or
- The applicant has a residence permit for Norway.

Permission cannot be granted for a subject area where the candidate already holds a Norwegian or Nordic doctoral degree.

Section 3 Thesis

The thesis shall be an independent, scientific work of high academic standard with respect to the formulation of research questions, the specification of concepts, the methodological, theoretical and

empirical basis, the documentation and form of presentation. It must contribute to the development of new scientific knowledge and be of sufficiently high academic quality to merit publication as part of the scientific literature in the relevant field.

The thesis may be an independent piece of work or continuation of a thesis submitted for a master's degree or equivalent. The thesis may also be a continuation of previous academic work for other examinations in the study programme.

Work previously accepted as a thesis towards a higher degree, e.g. a master's thesis, mag.art. or licentiate – thesis or work that has previously been awarded a medal in a University prize competition, cannot be accepted for evaluation unless it constitutes a minor part of a thesis that consists of several interrelated pieces of work.

Several minor pieces of work may be approved as part of the doctoral thesis provided that the content of these works constitutes a whole. In such cases, the individual parts shall be accompanied by a summary which gives a more detailed account of the coherence of the thesis.

Joint publications may be approved for evaluation (also as one of several publications, cf. paragraph 4) provided that the contribution of the doctoral candidate represents an individual effort that can be identified if this is necessary for the evaluation. In such cases the co-authors or other persons who have been involved in or supervised the work will be asked to submit a declaration to identify the contribution of the doctoral candidate.

A work or parts of a work that is/are being evaluated for the applicant for a doctoral degree at another Norwegian university or university college cannot simultaneously be submitted for evaluation at the University of Agder.

A work or parts of a work that has previously been evaluated and approved for a doctoral degree at a Norwegian or foreign university or university college cannot be accepted for evaluation, even if the work is submitted in a revised version by the applicant.

The thesis must be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, German or French. Should the candidate wish to use another language, an application for special permission should be submitted together with the thesis. The current faculty decides whether special permission will be granted.

The thesis shall be available to the public.

A doctoral thesis that has not been approved on previous evaluation may be-evaluated in a revised form, either as a single piece of work or as one of several interrelated works, but not until at least six months after the faculty's decision to reject the thesis. A new evaluation can be made only once.

Section 4 Evaluation

The doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of:

- A. Approved academic thesis and a satisfactory public defence thereof.
- B. Two approved trial lectures.

Section 5 Submission of the thesis

The thesis and the request to have thesis evaluated for the doctoral degree shall be submitted to the relevant faculty. Certified copies of examination results and degree certificates should be enclosed with the application.

If special admission according to Section 2 is required, the applicant must document his/her studies and enclose previous scientific works. The application must be submitted together with the thesis. Citizens from non-Nordic countries must submit a justified application for admittance to the examination together with the thesis. Should the applicant wish to use a language for the thesis other than those listed in Section 3 of these regulations, an application for approval must be submitted along with the thesis.

Together with the thesis the doctoral candidate shall submit a written statement to the effect that the thesis, or parts of the thesis, has not previously been submitted for evaluation for a doctoral degree at another Norwegian or foreign institution.

The thesis is to be submitted in the number of copies required by the faculty.

If the thesis is approved for public defence, an additional number of copies as required by the faculty must be submitted. A brief summary of the thesis in Norwegian and English that can serve as a press release should accompany the thesis. The copies of the thesis shall be prepared and the thesis made publically available at least one month before the defence is scheduled to take place.

A work that has been submitted cannot be withdrawn until a final decision has been reached as to whether it merits defence for the doctoral degree. After submission, the doctoral candidate can only make corrections of a formal nature provided that he/she submits a list of all corrections made to the submitted work (errata sheet). The errata sheet must be submitted one month before the public defence.

Section 6 Appointment of an evaluation committee

To evaluate the thesis, the trial lectures and the defence of the thesis, the current faculty appoints an evaluation committee of at least three members based on a proposal put forward by the relevant department. The faculty appoints the chairperson of the committee. At least two members of the committee shall have no affiliation to the University of Agder. At least one member of the committee should be affiliated to a foreign institution. As far as possible both sexes should be represented in the committee. Members must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent academic qualifications. The provisions pertaining to impartiality stated in the Public Administration Act, Section 6 ff, apply to the members of the committee; cf. Section 10 of the said act. The doctoral candidate shall be informed about the composition of the committee.

Section 7 The Committee's recommendation and the handling of the recommendation

Within a deadline set by the faculty, the committee shall submit a justified recommendation, if relevant with individual statements, on whether the work is worthy of defence for the doctoral degree. Grounds for possible dissent must be given. The committee may require the candidate to submit source material and supplementary or clarifying information.

The recommendation of the evaluation committee, including statements of dissent and/or individual statements, shall be addressed to the faculty and forwarded to the candidate as soon as possible. The candidate may then submit written comments no later than 14 days following receipt of the recommendation.

Should the comments of the doctoral candidate be of significance with regard to whether the thesis can be approved, the comments should be submitted to the evaluation committee before the faculty reaches a formal decision on the matter.

The recommendation of the evaluation, including possible comments, shall be discussed by the faculty.

A unanimous recommendation by the committee is normally accepted. If the faculty finds that in spite of a unanimous committee recommendation there is reasonable doubt as to whether a thesis should be approved, the faculty must request further clarification from the committee or appoint two new experts to provide individual statements on the thesis.

The comments of the doctoral candidate are to be submitted together with the expert's statements. The faculty itself then makes a decision based on the statements and the committee's recommendation.

If there is dissent in the committee, the faculty may without further evaluation make a decision in the case, or seek further clarification from the evaluation committee, or appoint two new experts to submit individual statements concerning the thesis. The comments of the doctoral candidate shall be enclosed. The faculty itself then makes a decision based on the recommendation and the statements.

The doctoral candidate shall be informed of the results of the proceedings.

Section 8 Trial lecture and defence of the thesis

If the thesis is found worthy of defence for the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate shall deliver two public trial lectures, one on a topic chosen by the candidate and one on an assigned topic. The candidate shall submit the title of the trial lecture of his/ her own choice to the university no later than a month before the defence. The topic for the trial lecture on the assigned topic is determined by the evaluation committee and shall be announced to the candidate 10 days prior to the lecture. The defence shall be held within six months of the submission of the thesis. The trial lectures shall be delivered prior to the defence of the thesis.

The trial lectures and the defence of the thesis shall be conducted in the language of the written thesis or in one of the languages permitted according to Section 3, paragraph 8.

The evaluation committee shall assess the trial lectures, which need to be deemed satisfactory.

If the evaluation finds that the trial lectures are satisfactory, the doctoral candidate shall hold a public defence of the doctoral thesis.

The defence of the thesis shall be public. There will be two ordinary opponents appointed by the faculty who are members of the evaluation committee. In special cases, ordinary opponents may be appointed who have not been members of the evaluation committee.

The proceedings in the public defence are chaired by the Dean or someone deputized by the Dean. The chair gives a brief account of the submission and evaluation of the thesis and the trial lectures as well as the evaluation these have received. Thereafter, the first ordinary opponent reviews the objective and the results of the scientific inquiry. The faculty may decide that the doctoral candidate conducts this review. The first ordinary opponent opens the discussion, and the second ordinary opponent concludes the proceedings. Other persons present who wish to oppose *ex auditorio* must notify the chair within a time-limit set by the chair.

After the defence, the evaluation committee submits a report to the faculty in which it provides an account of its evaluation of the trial lectures and the public defence of the thesis. In conclusion the report shall state whether the trial lectures and the defence of the thesis have been approved or not.

If the trial lectures or the public defence is not approved, a new attempt may not be made until six months after the public defence. If at all possible the new attempt should be evaluated by the original evaluation committee.

Section 9 Conferral of the degree and diploma

On the basis of the faculty's approval of the thesis, the trial lectures and the public defence, the Board of the University of Agder confers the degree of Dr.Philos. on the candidate.

Diplomas are issued on an ongoing basis by the institution. The diploma shall include the title of the thesis and the topics of the trial lectures.

Section 10 Appeal

Rejections of an application to have the thesis evaluated pursuant to Section 2 or a decision not to approve thesis, trial lecture or public defence pursuant to Section 7 or Section 8, may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of Section 28 ff. of the Public Administration Act. A substantiated appeal must be submitted to the faculty.

If the decision has been made by the faculty, the faculty board may revoke or change the decision if it finds the appeal justified. If not, the appeal is submitted to the university's Appeals Committee for decision. The appeals body can review all aspects of the decision appealed. If the body that has made the decision or the appeal authority finds it appropriate, individuals or a committee may be appointed to make an assessment of the original evaluation and the underlying criteria or to make a new or supplementary expert assessment.

Section 11 Coming into operation

These regulations come into operation immediately.

In case of discrepancies between the Norwegian and the English version of these regulations, the official Norwegian version takes precedence.