

## Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Agder

Adopted by the University Board on 20 June 2012 and 22. November 2014 pursuant to the provisions of Act No 15 of 1 April 2005 relating to Universities and University Colleges, section 3-3 and section 3-9.

### Part I: Introductory Provisions

#### Section 1 Applicability of regulations

These regulations apply to the doctoral education culminating in the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD). The regulations pertain to admission, participation in and completion of the PhD education, including joint degrees and cotutelle-agreements.

#### Section 2 Scope, content and objectives of the PhD education

The PhD education is organised in programmes with a stipulated duration of three years of full-time study. The programmes include a coursework and training component of at least 30 and maximum 45 credits.

The PhD education at the University of Agder qualifies the candidate for research activities at an international level and for other professional activities requiring high levels of scientific insight and analytical thinking, in accordance with recognized scientific and ethical principles. The candidate will acquire knowledge, skills and general competence as set out in the national qualifications framework for lifelong learning.

The most important component in the PhD education is an independent piece of research or a combined work of research and development carried out under active supervision.

The PhD education consists of:

1. A coursework and training component
2. A doctoral thesis
3. Trial lecture on an assigned topic
4. Public defense of the thesis (disputation)

#### Section 3 Responsibility for the PhD education

The University Board has overall responsibility for the PhD education at the University of Agder. The University Board itself may establish or discontinue PhD programmes and specializations at the

faculties as well as adopt changes to titles or significant changes of content in specializations The programmes are administered by the faculties.

The University Board stipulates supplementary regulations for the programmes and the specializations.

The University Board stipulates study plans for new programmes and specializations. Subsequent changes may be initiated at the faculty level and implemented by the Faculty Board itself. The faculty itself stipulates course descriptions.

The faculty stipulates individual plans for candidates who are not attached to a specialization.

The phrase “the faculty itself” implies an organizational unit at faculty level or the Dean.

#### **Section 4 Quality Assurance**

The University of Agder’s system for quality assurance of education also applies to the PhD education. The faculties are responsible for ensuring quality in accordance with the quality assurance system.

### **Part II Admissions**

#### **Section 5 Admission**

##### *Section 5.1 Admission requirements*

To be admitted to the PhD education, the applicant must normally have completed a five-year master’s degree in Norway pursuant to the national qualifications framework, 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle. The faculty may, as a result of special assessment procedures, recognise other educations as equal to the Norwegian MA degree and as basis for admission to the PhD programme. The faculties may stipulate additional admission requirements in their supplementary regulations. Applicants without a complete MA-degree may be admitted to integrated PhD programmes in accordance with regulations stipulated by the University Board itself.

Applications must normally be submitted within three (3) months of commencement of the research project leading to the PhD-degree. In cases where there are less than one (1) year of full-time work remaining on a research project, applicants will not be admitted.

The following documentation should be submitted with the application form:

- Documentation of educational credentials qualifying for admission
- A description of the project which comprises:
  - A project proposal which includes theme(s), research questions and choice of theory and methods
  - Project schedule

- A funding plan
- Documentation of need for extra scholarly and/or material resources (if necessary)
- Possible plans for stays at other institutions
- Plan for scholarly dissemination of results
- Information about possible restrictions on intellectual property rights due to the protection of others' rights.
- Plan for the coursework and training component, which includes training directed towards general competence as defined by the national qualifications framework.
- Proposal for at least one supervisor as well as information about possible links to current research projects and environments
- Presentation of possible judicial and ethical issues raised by the project and how these may be resolved.
- The application should be clear about whether the project needs clearance from research ethics committees or other authorities or private persons (informants, patients, parents etc.) If possible, such permissions/clearances should be obtained in advance and submitted with the application form

The application must be submitted to the faculty on the prescribed form.

PhD candidate and main supervisor should as quickly as possible and no later than three months after admission, review the project proposal and assess the need for adjustments. The faculty may stipulate a duty of residence.

### *Section 5.2 Infrastructure*

The candidate must have at his/her disposal the infrastructure necessary for completion of the project. The faculty has the decision-making authority in questions of what constitutes infrastructure 'necessary for completion'. For externally financed candidates or candidates situated at a workplace outside the university, the faculty and the external party should enter into an agreement concerning the research project. Normally, such agreements should be finalized before a decision about admission is made or immediately afterwards.

### *Section 5.3 Decisions regarding admission*

Decisions regarding admission to the PhD-programme are taken by the faculty itself.

The decision will be based on an overall assessment of the application. In cases where the number of applicants is larger than the number of available places, the faculty may stipulate criteria for ranking the applicants.

A decision regarding admission must include: the nomination of at least one supervisor, the assignment of responsibility for dealing with special needs as stated in the application as well as dates for the commencement and end of the candidate period. If an extended PhD candidate period is applied for, the issue must be seen in relation to the applicant's rights as employee or be resolved on the basis of the applicant's total financial situation.

Admission will be denied if:

- Agreements with external third parties prevent publication and public defense of the thesis
- Agreements concerning intellectual property rights are so restrictive that the university should not be part of the project
- The applicant is not able to fulfill the requirement that no less than one year of full time work remains of the project after being admitted to the PhD programme, cf. section 5.1
- The faculty does not have the necessary capacity to offer supervision within the candidate's chosen field
- The applicant is unable to document funding in accordance with costs as specified in the budget document.

#### *Section 5.4 Admission period*

The PhD period has a nominal duration of three (3) years of full-time study. The University Board may, in supplementary regulations, stipulate rules for a maximum time permitted for the completion of the PhD programme not counting statutory leaves of absence and compulsory duties.

Where work on the project is interrupted by statutory leaves of absence, the admission period will be extended accordingly.

When a candidate submits an application with a reasoned statement, the faculty itself may approve of an extended contractual period of admission.

In cases where the admission period is extended, the faculty itself may stipulate additional requirements.

Following expiry of the admission period, the parties' rights and duties under the doctoral contract cease to exist, such that the doctoral candidate loses entitlement to supervision, course participation and access to university infrastructure. The candidate may, however, apply for permission to submit the thesis for evaluation for the PhD degree.

#### *Section 5.5 Premature termination*

##### *Voluntary termination*

The candidate and the university may agree to terminate the PhD education before the agreed completion date. In the event of such termination, the parties shall enter into a written agreement regulating issues such as employment, funding and rights to research results.

In the case of voluntary termination due to the candidate's desire to change project or transfer to another doctoral programme or specialization, the candidate must reapply for admission based on the new project.

### *Forced termination*

The faculty board itself may decide to terminate a candidate's PhD education before the agreed completion date in cases of academic misconduct or when a candidate to a significant degree fails to fulfill his/her obligations as set out in the doctoral agreement, see Act relating to Universities and University Colleges § 4-13. Examples of significant violations of the agreement:

- Considerable delay in completion of the course and training component due to circumstances over which the candidate has control.
- Repeated or significant failure on part of the candidate to provide information, meet commitments or report on progress, including failure to submit progress reports, cf. section 9.
- Delay in the progress of a research project of a kind that gives rise to reasonable doubt about the candidate's ability to complete the project within the agreed time-frame. To be considered grounds for involuntary termination, the delay must be attributable to circumstances over which the candidate has control.
- Conduct on part of the candidate that violates the necessary level of trust between the university and the candidate, including any illegal activities relating to the completion of the PhD education.

### **Section 6 The PhD contract**

Admission to one of the university's PhD programmes will be formalized in a written contract signed by the PhD candidate, the supervisor(s) and the faculty. The agreement governs the parties' rights and duties during the admission period, and shall ensure both that the candidate participates on a regular basis in an active research environment and facilitate completion within the agreed time-frame.

When a PhD candidate is funded by, is employed by or receives other contributions from an external party, a separate agreement shall be set up between the candidate, the university and the external party.

If the PhD candidate is to be affiliated with foreign institutions, the university's guidelines for such cooperation must be adhered to and separate agreements must be entered into using the appropriate forms. The agreement shall normally be attached to the contract.

## **Part III Implementation**

### **Section 7 Academic supervision**

Work on the PhD thesis is to be carried out under individual supervision from an academic supervisor. The faculty and the supervisors must together ensure that the PhD candidate participates in an active research environment.

#### *Section 7.1 Appointment of academic supervisors*

As a general rule, the PhD candidate is to have two academic supervisors, of which one will be designated as the main supervisor. The main supervisor should be appointed by the time the candidate is admitted.

The main supervisor has the primary academic responsibility for the candidate. If the faculty appoints an external main supervisor, a co-supervisor who is an academic staff member at UiA is to be appointed.

Co-supervisors are scholars who provide supervision and who share the academic responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor.

All academic supervisors must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification in the relevant research field and must be working actively as researchers. At least one of the appointed supervisors must have previous experience or training in academic supervision of PhD candidates.

Both the PhD candidate and the academic supervisor may ask the faculty to appoint another supervisor for the candidate. The supervisor may not withdraw before a new supervisor has been appointed.

#### *Section 7.2 Content of the academic supervision*

The candidate must have regular contact with his/her supervisors. The supervisor is responsible for follow-up concerning the candidate's professional development. The frequency of contact is to be stated in the annual progress report; cf. section 9.

The supervisors have a duty to keep themselves informed about the progress of the candidate's work and to assess such progress in relation to the timeframe as it is set out in the project description, cf. section 5.1.

The supervisors are required to follow up academic issues that may cause a delay in the progression of the candidate's PhD education, so that it can be completed within the nominal period of study.

The supervisors shall advise on the formulation and definition of the topic and problem statements; discuss and assess hypotheses and research methods; discuss results and their interpretation, discuss the structure and work on the thesis, including the outline, choice of language and documentation as well as providing guidance on the academic literature and data available in libraries, archives etc. The supervisors must also advise the candidate on issues of research ethics in connection with the thesis.

### **Section 8 Coursework and training component**

#### *Section 8.1 Legal framework, objectives, content and scope*

Particular provisions pertaining to examinations in the Act relating to universities and university colleges, as well as the relevant provisions of the Examination Regulations at the University of Agder, regulate the examination requirements for the coursework and training component of the PhD programmes.

The total workload of the PhD education must not exceed the equivalence of three years of full-time study.

The coursework component will give the candidate an introduction to research ethics, theory of science and research methods. The coursework and thesis together ensure that the candidate achieves the learning outcomes set out in the national qualifications framework.

The coursework component should normally be carried out at the University of Agder. The faculty itself may recognize courses and other academic activities undertaken outside the University of Agder as part of this component. The faculty itself approves courses and academic activities undertaken at UiA in relation to the coursework component.

The required coursework or other academic training must be equivalent to at least 30 and maximum 45 credits. At least 20 credits should be completed subsequent to admission. All parts of the coursework component must be at PhD level and should normally not be taken more than two (2) years before the date of admission to the PhD programme at UiA.

As part of their PhD education, PhD candidates should receive advice on future professional and occupational prospects within and outside academia. This is also to increase their awareness of the expertise they have acquired during their research activities.

#### *Section 8.2 The candidate's rights concerning leave of absence*

PhD candidates absent on parental leave may still attend classes and sit examinations which are a mandatory part of their coursework component, cf. National Insurance Act, section 14-10.

### **Section 9 Reporting**

The University of Agder's system for assuring the quality of the PhD education shall include routines for uncovering a lack of progression in the candidate's work with the thesis and the coursework component. In addition, the system includes routines for detecting quality failures in supervision and follow-up routines for quality failures. The system shall normally include annual and separate reports from the candidate and the supervisor, made out to avoid double reporting. The candidate and the supervisor have equal responsibility for submitting the required reports. A lack of, or inadequate, progress reports from the candidate may result in enforced termination of the candidate's participation in the PhD education prior to the expiry of the agreement period, cf. section 5.5. Supervisors who fail to comply with the reporting requirements may be relieved of their supervisory duties.

If needed, the faculty may establish special reporting requirements.

### **Section 10 The PhD thesis**

#### *Section 10.1 Thesis requirements*

The thesis is to be an independent piece of research work or research and development work that meets international standards with regard to ethical requirements, academic standards and methods in the subject area.

The thesis must contribute to the development of new scholarly knowledge and must achieve a level meriting publication in a suitable format as part of the field's research-based development of knowledge.

The thesis may consist of a monograph or a compendium of several shorter papers. If the thesis consists of several shorter papers, clarification about how they are interrelated must be included.

The main component of the thesis may consist of a new product or a systematised collection of materials or be presented in another manner (for example sound, image, video electronic presentation) where the thesis' theoretical and methodical basis is not evident from the product itself. In such instances the thesis, in addition to the main product, must include an additional part. The additional part should consist of a written presentation of problem, choice of theory and method and assessment of results according to international standards and the professional level of the field.

If the thesis, or parts of it, has been produced in cooperation with other authors, the PhD candidate must follow the norm for co-authorship that are generally accepted in the field and in the University of Agder's guidelines for co-authorship. A thesis containing papers written by more than one author or collaborators must include a signed declaration that describes the contribution of the candidate and the co-authors of each of the papers.

The thesis must be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English. If the candidate wishes to use another language, special permission to do this must be applied for no later than the date of admission. Special permission to use another language must also be included in the text of the PhD contract.

#### *Section 10.2 Work that may not be submitted*

Work or parts of a work that has been approved as the basis for previous examinations or degrees may not be submitted for assessment. However, data, analyses or methods from previous degrees may be used as basis for work in the PhD project.

Published papers cannot be approved as part of the PhD thesis if there is more than five (5) years from the date of publication to the date of the candidate's admission. The faculty itself may grant exemptions from this requirement if this is warranted by special circumstances.

The thesis may be submitted for assessment to only one educational institution; cf. section 13.1.

#### **Section 11 Duty to report on research results with commercial potential**

PhD candidates employed by the University of Agder have a duty to report on research results with a commercial potential that are produced during the candidate's employment period pursuant to Act no. 21 of 17 April 1970 relating to the right to inventions made by employees, Act no. 2 of 12 May 1961 The copyright law and Act no. 27 of 15 June 1990 relating to the protection of layout-design for integrated circuits. The University Board may stipulate regulations concerning the obligation to report research results also for other kinds of research results to which the University's policy of rights apply. There is to be a separate agreement between the university and the employee regarding the acquisition of rights to work results. This agreement shall stipulate the obligation of both the employee and the employer in relation to exploitation, division of royalties etc.

Where a PhD candidate has an external employer, an equivalent reporting duty shall be stipulated in an agreement between the University of Agder, the PhD candidate and the external employer.



Where a PhD candidate does not have an employer, an equivalent reporting duty shall be included in the admission contract between the University of Agder and the PhD candidate.

## **Part IV Completion**

### **Section 12 Assessment**

#### *Section 12.1 Basis for assessment*

The PhD degree is awarded on the basis of

- Approved completion of required coursework and training component
- Approved academic thesis
- Approved trial lecture on an assigned topic
- Approved public defense of the PhD thesis (disputation)

#### *Section 12.2 Time from submission to public defense of thesis*

Normally, the period from submission to defense of thesis should not exceed five (5) months.

It is the responsibility of the main supervisor to notify the office in charge at the faculty that the PhD thesis will soon be submitted, thus allowing the necessary preparations to begin.

### **Section 13 Submission**

#### *Section 13.1 Submission of the PhD thesis*

The application for assessment of the thesis may only be submitted after the required coursework and training component has been approved.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

- The thesis in an approved format, and in accordance with faculty regulations in the form and number of copies stipulated by the faculty.
- Documentation of required permissions, cf. section 5.1.
- Declarations from co-authors where required in terms of section 10.1.
- Statement specifying whether the doctoral work is submitted for assessment for the first or second time.
- Statement that that the doctoral work has not been submitted for assessment at another institution.

#### *Section 13.2 Processing the application*

The faculty evaluates the application for assessment of the PhD thesis. Applications that do not fulfill the requirements stated in section 13.1 will be rejected.

### **Section 14 Appointment of an assessment committee**

When the faculty has approved an application for the assessment of a PhD thesis, the faculty itself is to appoint an expert committee with at least three members who are to assess the thesis, the trial

lecture and the public defense. The faculty itself stipulates appointment procedures and selects a chairman from among the committee's members and, if needed, also a coordinator in addition to the members of the committee.

The provisions applicable to partiality in section 6 of the Norwegian Public Administration Act apply to the members of the committee and to the coordinator, if any. The issue of partiality should be examined both in relation to PhD candidate and the supervisors.

The composition of the assessment committee is normally to be such that:

- Both genders are represented
- At least one of the members should be from outside UiA
- The main position of at least one member is at an institution outside Norway
- All the members hold doctoral degrees or equivalent qualifications

In cases where these criteria cannot be met, an explanation stating the grounds must be provided. The composition of the committee needs to be explained, and the question of how the committee as a whole covers the academic field of the thesis must be clarified.

Formal supervisors and others who have contributed to the thesis may not be appointed as members of the assessment committee or have an administrative function in relation to the committee. The faculty may, when required, appoint a replacement member to the committee.

The candidate must be notified of the proposal for the composition of the committee prior to any decision by the faculty, and he or she may submit written comments no later than one week after the proposal has been made public.

The period from the application is approved and to the assessment committee has been appointed should normally not exceed four weeks.

## **Section 15 Activities of the assessment committee**

### *Section 15.1 Gathering of supplementary information*

The assessment committee may require presentation of the PhD candidate's source material and additional clarifying or supplementary information.

The assessment committee may ask academic supervisors to provide information about the supervision carried out and the work involved in the thesis.

### *Section 15.2 Revision of a submitted thesis*

On the basis of the submitted thesis and any additional material, cf. section 15.1., the assessment committee may recommend that the faculty permits the candidate to make minor revisions to the thesis before the committee submits its final report. The committee is to provide a written list of

specific items that the candidate must revise. The faculty itself decides whether minor revisions to the thesis should be allowed.

If the faculty allows minor revisions to the thesis, a deadline normally not exceeding three (3) months is to be set for completing such revisions. A new deadline for submission of the committee's final report must also be set. The faculty's decision pursuant to this section may not be appealed by the PhD candidate.

If the assessment committee finds that extensive changes related to the theory, hypothesis, material or methods used in the thesis are needed in order to deem the thesis worthy of a public defense; the committee must recommend that the thesis is rejected.

#### *Section 15.3 Report of the assessment committee*

The committee determines whether or not the thesis is worthy of being defended for the PhD degree. The decision presented in the report and any dissenting views must be explained.

The assessment committee's report should be submitted no later than three (3) months after the date on which the committee received the thesis. If the faculty allows the candidate to submit a revised thesis, a new time limit runs from the date on which the thesis was resubmitted.

The assessment committee's report is submitted to the faculty, which forwards the report to the PhD candidate. The candidate is then given ten (10) working days in which to submit written comments on the report. If the candidate does not wish to submit comments, he/she must notify the faculty of this in writing as soon as possible.

Any comments from the PhD candidate must be sent to the faculty. The faculty itself is responsible for taking the final decision on the matter in accordance with section 16.

#### *Section 15.4 Correction of formal errors in the thesis*

Once submitted, a thesis cannot be withdrawn until a final decision has been reached as to whether or not it can be approved for the defence of the PhD degree. After the thesis has been submitted, the candidate will only be allowed to make formal corrections. Introducing formal corrections presupposes that the candidate has to submit a list of all formal corrections no later than one month before the public defense.

### **Section 16 Faculty procedures related to the assessment committee's report**

On the basis of the assessment committee's final report, the faculty itself decides whether or not the PhD thesis is worthy of a public defence. The candidate must be notified about the faculty's decision.

#### *Unanimous committee decision*

If the committee's report is unanimous and the faculty finds that the report should be used as the basis for its final decision, the faculty will take the final decision in accordance with the committee's recommendations.

If the faculty finds that there are grounds to doubt whether the committee's unanimous report should be used as the basis for its final decision, the faculty itself must request further clarification

from the assessment committee and/or appoint two new experts to make individual statements about the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual statements must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments.

The faculty itself is to take the final decision in the matter on the basis of the committee's report and the statements obtained.

#### *Non-unanimous committee decision*

If the committee's recommendation is non-unanimous and the faculty decides to use the majority's recommendation as basis for its final decision, the faculty itself is to take the final decision in accordance with the majority's recommendation. If the committee's recommendation is non-unanimous and the faculty considers using the statements of the minority as basis for its final decision, the faculty may seek further clarification from the assessment committee and/or appoint two new experts to give individual statements about the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual statements must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments. If both the new experts agree with the recommendation of the majority in the committee's original recommendation, this recommendation is to be followed.

### **Section 17 Resubmission**

A PhD thesis that has not been found worthy of public defense may be resubmitted for assessment in a revised version no earlier than six (6) months after the faculty has made its decision. A PhD thesis may only be reassessed once.

In the event of resubmission, the PhD candidate must clearly state that the thesis was assessed previously and not found worthy of a public defense.

### **Section 18 Public availability of the thesis**

#### *Section 18.1 Requirements related to the printed thesis*

When the thesis has been found worthy of a public defense, the PhD candidate must submit the printed thesis to the faculty in the approved format and in accordance with UiA's rules, cf. section 13.1.

The PhD candidate must submit a short summary of the thesis in English or Norwegian. If the thesis is not written in English or Norwegian, the candidate must also submit a summary in the language in which the thesis is written. Both the thesis and the summary must be made available to the public.

#### *Section 18.2 Public availability*

The thesis must be made available to the public no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the public defense. The thesis should be made available in the form in which it was submitted for assessment, or following revisions made on the basis of the committee's preliminary comments, cf. section 15.2.

No restrictions may be placed on a PhD thesis being made publicly available, with the exception of a previously arranged delay in the date of public access. Such a delay may be permitted in order to allow the faculty and any external party that have provided full or partial funding for the PhD education to consider potential patents. An external party may not require that all or part of a thesis be withheld from the public domain; cf. section 5.3.

When publishing the thesis, PhD candidates employed by the University of Agder must follow the university's guidelines for addressing and as a general rule list UiA as the address. Externally employed PhD candidates must list both the University of Agder and their main employer's address in the publication. The same rules apply to works that have been completed fully or in part during the PhD education, but which are published at a later date.

## **Section 19 Doctoral examination**

### *Section 19.1 The trial lecture*

Subsequent to the faculty's decision to approve the thesis for public defense, cf. section 15, the candidate is to deliver a trial lecture. The trial lecture is an independent part of the doctoral examination and is held on an assigned topic. The purpose is to test the candidate's ability to acquire knowledge beyond the topic of the thesis as well as the ability to impart this knowledge in a lecture setting.

The title of the trial lecture is decided by the assessment committee and announced to the PhD candidate ten (10) working days before the date of the lecture. The topic of the lecture should have no direct connection with the topic of the candidate's thesis.

The trial lecture must be held in the language in which the thesis is written unless the faculty itself approves the use of another language.

The assessment committee notifies the faculty whether the trial lecture has been approved or not. If the trial lecture is not approved, an explanation must be given.

### *Section 19.2 Public defense of the thesis*

The public defense of the thesis is to take place after the trial lecture has been approved.

The time and location of the public defense must be announced at least ten (10) working days in advance.

The committee that originally assessed the PhD thesis must also assess the public defense. The public defense must be held in the language used in the thesis, unless the faculty itself, on the recommendation of the assessment committee, approves the use of a different language.

There are normally to be two opponents. The two opponents must be members of the assessment committee and are appointed by the faculty itself.

The public defense will be chaired by the Dean or by a person authorized by the Dean. The chair provides a brief account of the submission and the assessment of the thesis and the trial lecture. The PhD candidate then explains the purpose and the results of the scientific investigation. The faculty

itself may decide that the first opponent shall explain the purpose and results of the thesis instead of the candidate.

The first opponent opens the discussion, before the PhD candidate is given the opportunity to defend the thesis. Once one or both of the opponents have concluded their arguments, members of the audience are given the opportunity to comment *ex auditorio*. One of the opponents concludes the opposition before the chair concludes the disputation.

The assessment committee submits its report to the faculty in which it explains how it has assessed the public defense of the thesis. The report has to conclude whether the defense has been approved or not. If the defense of the thesis is not approved, the assessment committee has to give reasons.

### **Section 20 Approval of the doctoral examination**

The faculty itself makes the decision about the approval of the doctoral examination on the basis of the assessment committee's report.

If the faculty does not approve the trial lecture, a new trial lecture must be held. The new trial lecture must be held on a new topic and no later than six (6) months after the first attempt. A new trial lecture may be held only once. As far as possible, the lecture should be assessed by the same committee that assessed the original lecture, unless the faculty itself decides otherwise.

If the faculty itself does not approve the public defense, the candidate may defend the thesis once more. A new defense is normally arranged after six (6) months and should as far as possible be assessed by the original assessment committee.

### **Section 21 Conferral of the degree and certificate**

On the basis of the faculty's report of approved course and training component, thesis and doctoral examination, the University Board confers upon the candidate the title of Philosophiae Doctor.

The certificate is issued by the University of Agder. In the certificate, information must be provided about the content of the coursework and training component, the date and the title of the trial lecture, the title of the thesis and the date of the public defense of the thesis.

### **Section 22 Diploma supplement**

The University of Agder is to issue a PhD diploma supplement in accordance with current guidelines.

## **Part V Joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements**

### **Section 23 Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements**

#### *Section 23.1 Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements*

The University of Agder may enter into agreements with one or more institutions in Norway or abroad regarding cooperation in the form of joint degrees or cotutelle agreements.

In agreements regarding joint degrees or cotutelle, the faculty may grant exemptions from the PhD regulations at UiA if this is necessary due to regulations at cooperating institutions.

### *Section 23.2 Joint degrees*

The term 'joint degree' is defined as a cooperative programme between two or more institutions that are jointly responsible for admission, academic supervision, conferral of the degree and other elements described in these regulations. The cooperation is normally organized in the form of a consortium and is regulated by an agreement between the consortium members. For a completed joint degree, a joint diploma is issued in the form of: a) a diploma issued by the consortium members as a group, b) a diploma issued by each of the consortium members, or a combination of a) and b).

An agreement to issue a joint degree is normally entered into only if established and stable academic cooperation already exists between the University of Agder and one of the other consortium members. The University Board stipulates additional regulations for joint degree cooperation, including a template for consortium agreements, cf. section 23.2, first subsection.

### *Section 23.3 Cotutelle agreements*

The term 'cotutelle agreement' is defined as the joint academic supervision of PhD candidates and cooperation on doctoral training for PhD candidates. A separate cotutelle agreement is entered into for each candidate and must be based on stable academic cooperation between the institutions.

### *Section 23.4 Requirements for joint degrees and cotutelle*

The qualifications required for admission, the requirement that the thesis must be made available to the public and the requirement for a public defense assessed by an impartial assessment committee cannot be waived.

## **Part VI Appeal, entry into force and transitional provisions**

### **Section 24 Appeals**

*Section 24.1 Appeal against rejection of an application for admission, appeal against a decision to terminate a candidate's admission rights, and appeal against rejection of an application for approval of part of the required coursework or other academic training.*

Rejection of an application for admission, a decision to terminate a candidate's admission rights, or an application for approval of part of the required coursework or other academic training may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of the Public Administration Act, sections 28 et seq. A substantiated appeal against rejection must be submitted to the faculty. If the rejection is upheld, the appeal is to be forwarded to the Appeals Committee at UiA for a final ruling.

*Section 24.2 Appeals against grade awarded or procedural error in connection with examination in the required coursework and training component*

Exams that have been taken as part of the required coursework or other academic training may be appealed under the provisions of the Act of 1 April 2005 relating to Universities and University Colleges pursuant to section 5-3 concerning appeals over grades and section 5-2 concerning appeals relating to procedural errors in examinations.

Suspicion of academic misconduct or attempted misconduct must be handled in accordance with the University of Agder's established routines for such matters.

*Section 24.3 Appeal against rejection of an application for assessment, non-approval of a PhD thesis, trial lecture or public defense*

Rejection of an application for assessment of a PhD thesis, and a decision not to approve a PhD thesis, trial lecture or public defense may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of the Public Administration Act sections 28 et seq.

A substantiated appeal must be submitted to the faculty. If the faculty concerned finds that the appeal is justified, it may overturn or amend the decision. If the faculty itself rejects the appeal, it is to be forwarded to the UiA Appeals Committee for a final decision. The Appeals Committee may review all aspects of the appealed decision. Should the faculty or the Appeals Committee find grounds do to so, it may appoint individuals or a committee to undertake an evaluation of the assessment and the underlying criteria or to undertake a new or supplementary expert assessment.

**Section 25 Entry into force**

*Section 25.1 Entry into force*

These regulations shall enter into force immediately. Provisions No 1311, of 24 October 2002 is hereby revoked.

*Section 25.2 Transitional provisions*

Anyone who at the time these regulations come into force has been accepted into a doctoral programme pursuant to the Provisions of 24 October 2002, No 1311, retains the rights granted under the latter regulations if this is to their advantage.



