

## **STANDARD REGULATIONS**

### **FOR THE DEGREE OF DR. PHILOS. (AND EQUIVALENT DEGREES)**

**Recommendation of the Norwegian Council of Universities as of 09.12.96**

#### **§ 1 Aim of the doctoral degree programme**

The aim of the doctoral degree programme (Dr. philos.) is to qualify the candidate for research activities and other kinds of work requiring a high level of scientific insight and methodology.

#### **§ 2 The right to apply for admission**

Anyone who has obtained a higher degree may apply for permission to submit a thesis for the Dr. philos. degree.

Applicants who can provide documentation of equivalent qualifications in a discipline may be granted permission to apply for permission to submit a thesis for the degree. Such permission is granted by the board of governors, or the body that the board has delegated this task to. No thesis may be evaluated until the candidate has been granted admission. The board of governors (or the body that the board has delegated this task to) evaluates the applicant's qualifications and reaches a decision on the basis of documentation of previous studies and scientific work, cf. § 5. The board of governors (or the body that the board has delegated this task to) may require the applicant to follow a special course and/or pass a special test before being granted admission. The application for admission must be submitted together with the doctoral degree thesis.

Candidates who are not citizens of Norway or any other Nordic country may apply for admission to the Dr. philos. examination provided that their application is supported by the relevant academic unit. Preferential treatment will be given to applicants with a valid residence permit in Norway, or applicants whose thesis either:

- covers topics or makes use of material directly related to Norway;
- is closely related to Norwegian research within the discipline; or
- has been carried out at a Norwegian university or research institute, or in close contact with Norwegian researchers.

#### **§ 3 Thesis**

The thesis must be an independent scientific piece of work of high academic standard with respect to the formulation of the issues raised, precision of concepts, methodological, theoretical and empirical basis, documentation and form of presentation. The thesis must thus contribute to the development of new knowledge and be of an academic standard appropriate for publication as part of the literature of the relevant field.

The thesis may be a self-contained piece of work or the continuation of a thesis previously submitted towards a higher degree in the field. The thesis may also be a continuation of previous academic work towards a higher degree.

Work previously accepted as a thesis towards a higher degree or towards the 'magister' or 'licenciate' degree, or work previously awarded a medal in a University prize competition is not admissible for evaluation as an independent piece of work towards the doctoral degree, unless it constitutes only a minor part of a thesis consisting of several conjoined pieces of work.

Several minor pieces of work may be accepted as part of a doctoral thesis, provided that the content of these works forms a whole. In such cases, the individual parts must be accompanied by a summary giving a detailed account of their interrelationship.

Part of a joint publication may be approved for evaluation (also one of several works, cf. section 4), provided that it represents an independent, identifiable contribution. In such cases the co-authors and other persons who have been monitoring the work will be asked to submit a declaration identifying the specific contribution of the doctoral candidate.

A piece of work or parts of a piece of work that are being evaluated for a doctoral degree at one Norwegian university or university college cannot be submitted for simultaneous evaluation at another Norwegian university or university college.

A piece of work previously accepted for a doctoral degree at a Norwegian or foreign institution cannot be submitted for evaluation, even if the work is submitted in a revised version.

The thesis should be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, German or French. Should the candidate wish to use another language, an application for permission must be submitted together with the thesis. A decision will be made by the Faculty responsible for evaluation.

The thesis must be made available to the public.

A doctoral thesis that has previously been rejected after evaluation may be re-evaluated in a revised version, either as a single piece of work or as one of several conjoined works, at least six months after the Faculty's decision to reject the thesis. Re-evaluation may only take place once.

#### **§ 4 Evaluation**

The doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of:

- a) a recognised scientific thesis and a satisfactory public defence thereof, and
- b) two approved trial lectures.

#### **§ 5 Submission of the thesis**

The thesis (and an application for evaluation of the thesis) must be submitted to the Faculty together with certified copies of examination and degree certificates. If the applicant is in doubt as to which Faculty the thesis should be evaluated by, the application may be addressed to the governing body of the institution. If special admission is required in accordance with § 2, the applicant must provide documentation of studies completed and enclose copies of previous scientific work. The application is submitted together with the thesis. Non-Nordic citizens must enclose a letter explaining why they are applying for admission to be evaluated for the degree in Norway. Should the applicant wish to submit a thesis in a language other than one of those stated in § 3, an application to this effect must be submitted together with the thesis.

The doctoral candidate must also enclose a written declaration that neither the whole nor any parts of the thesis have been submitted for evaluation for a doctoral degree at any other Norwegian or foreign institution.

The thesis must be submitted in five bound or stitched copies.

If the thesis is approved for public defence, additional copies must be submitted (in the number required by the institution). The thesis must be accompanied by an abstract which may serve as a press release. The thesis must be made available to the public at least one month before the public defence.

Once submitted, a thesis cannot be withdrawn until a final decision has been reached as to whether it may be approved for defence for the doctoral degree. After submission the doctoral candidate may make corrections of a formal nature only, and an errata sheet detailing all such corrections must be submitted no later than the date of submission of the title of the trial lecture on a chosen topic, cf. § 8.

## **§ 6 Appointment of an evaluation committee**

To evaluate the trial lectures, the thesis and the public defence thereof, the board of governors or Faculty appoints an evaluation committee consisting of at least three members, based on the proposal of the relevant academic staff. The Faculty appoints a chairman of the committee. At least one member should be appointed from outside the evaluating institution. As far as possible, the committee should have at least one foreign member, and both sexes should be represented. The members of the evaluation committee must hold a doctoral degree or academic qualification equivalent to a doctoral degree. The provisions pertaining to legal competence in the Norwegian Public Administration Act, § 6 ff., apply to the members of the committee, cf. § 10 of the same Act. The doctoral candidate must be informed of the composition of the committee.

## **§ 7 Procedure for the committee's report**

Within a deadline determined by the Faculty, the committee must submit a detailed report recommending whether or not the thesis is worthy of being defended for the doctoral degree. The report may be accompanied by individual statements. Details must be given of any dissent among the members of the committee. The committee may require that the candidate submit source material as well as supplementary and clarifying information.

The report of the evaluation committee, complete with any individual statements and/or statements of dissent, must be submitted to the Faculty and forwarded to the doctoral candidate as soon as possible. The candidate may submit written comments no later than one week after receipt of the report.

Should the comments from the doctoral candidate be of significance as to whether the thesis can be approved, these comments must be considered by the evaluation committee before the Faculty reaches a formal decision in the matter.

The report of the evaluation committee, together with any additional comments, is dealt with by the board of governors, or the body the board has delegated this authority to. The Dean of the Faculty may approve the report alone if the unanimous conclusion of the evaluation committee is to recommend that the doctoral candidate be given permission to defend his/her thesis.

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

### **§ 8 Trial lectures and public defence**

If the thesis is found worthy of being defended for the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate must hold two public trial lectures, one on a prescribed topic and one on a topic of his/her own choice. The candidate must submit the title of the lecture of his/her own choice no later than one month before the public defence. The topic for the trial lecture on a prescribed topic is determined by the evaluation committee and the candidate must be notified of the topic two weeks prior to the lecture. The public defence should normally be held within six months of submission of the thesis. The trial lectures must be held before the public defence.

The trial lectures and the public defence must be conducted in the same language as the thesis, or in one of the languages stated in these regulations.

The evaluation committee evaluates the trial lectures. The lectures must be found satisfactory in order for the candidate to defend his/her doctoral thesis in a public defence.

If the evaluation committee deems the trial lectures satisfactory, the candidate will subsequently be called upon to defend his/her doctoral thesis in a public defence.

The public defence is open to members of the public. There are normally two opponents. The opponents are members of the evaluation committee, appointed by the Faculty or by the committee itself. In special cases, opponents who have not been members of the committee may be appointed.

The proceedings are opened by the Dean of the Faculty or by the person to whom this task has been delegated. The chairman of the public defence gives an account of the submitted thesis, the trial lectures and their evaluation. Thereafter, the first opponent and the doctoral candidate review the objective and the results of the scientific research. The discussion is opened by the first opponent and concluded by the second opponent. Other persons present who wish to participate in the discussion must give notice of this to the chairman of the public defence within the time determined by chairman and announced at the start of the proceedings.

After the public defence, the evaluation committee submits a report to the Faculty, in which it accounts for the evaluation of the trial lectures and the defence of the thesis. The report must conclude whether the tests have been deemed satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

If the trial lectures and/or the public defence are deemed unsatisfactory, a new trial lecture/public defence may not be held until six months have elapsed since the original public defence. As far as possible, any such second attempt should be evaluated by the original evaluation committee.

## **§ 9 Conferment and diploma**

On the basis of the report from the evaluation committee that the trial lectures and the public defence have been deemed satisfactory, the highest governing body of the institution, or the body it has delegated this responsibility to, confers the doctoral degree on the candidate.

A doctoral degree diploma is issued by the institution. The diploma must state the title of the thesis and the discipline in which the degree has been awarded.

## **§ 10 Appeal**

Rejection of an application for admission as stated in § 2 of these regulations, or rejection of the thesis, trial lectures or public defence of a thesis may be appealed in accordance with § 28 ff. of the Norwegian Public Administration Act. In such cases, a justified appeal must be sent to the Faculty.

If the decision subject to appeal was made by the Faculty, the faculty board may set aside or alter the decision should the appeal be found to be reasonable. If not, the appeal is forwarded to the board of governors. If the decision subject to appeal was made by the board of governors, and no reason can be found for setting aside or altering the decision, the appeal must be sent to the Ministry of Education. All aspects of the appealed decision may be tried. Should the body dealing with the appeal see fit, it may appoint individuals or a committee to undertake an evaluation of the decision made and the criteria underlying it, as well as deciding whether a new or supplementary expert evaluation should be undertaken.