

# **Regulations concerning the dr. philos. degree at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)**

Passed by the Board of NTNU on 7 December 2005 in accordance with the Act of 1 April 2005 no. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges § 3-9 no. 7. Changes passed by the Board dated 27 February 2008.

## **§ 1 Objectives**

The doctoral degree is to qualify the candidate for research activities and other types of work where a high level of scientific insight and method is required.

## **§ 2 The right to apply**

Anyone who has passed a higher degree examination may apply for admission to the dr.philos. degree examination.

Applicants who can prove equivalent qualifications in a discipline can be permitted by the Faculty to take the doctoral degree examination. The doctoral thesis is not be evaluated until such permission is granted. The Faculty is to evaluate the applicant's qualifications and reach a decision based on the documentation of previous studies and scientific work, cf. § 5. The Faculty may require that the applicant follows special courses and/or pass a special test before permission is given to have the thesis evaluated. The application is to be submitted together with the doctoral degree thesis.

A person who is neither a Norwegian citizen, nor a citizen of any of the Nordic countries, may apply for admission to the dr.philos. examination provided that the relevant Faculty permits this following a recommendation and approval of the application from the relevant academic department or unit.

Admission is preferentially given if the thesis

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

or if the applicant

- has a residence permit in Norway

## **§ 3 Thesis**

The thesis is to be an independent, scientific piece of work of high academic standard with respect to the formulation of problems, the precision of concepts, the methodological, theoretical and empirical basis, the documentation and form of presentation. The thesis is to be a contribution to the development of new knowledge and be of an academic standard that is appropriate for publication as part of the literature in the relevant field.

The thesis may be a self-contained piece of work or a continuation of a master's thesis/thesis at second-degree level submitted towards a previous higher degree in the field. Also, the thesis may be a continuation of previous academic work for higher degree examinations.

Work previously accepted as a master's thesis/thesis at second-degree or towards the 'magister' or 'licenciate' degree, or work previously winning an award in a University Awards competition cannot be evaluated as an individual piece of work towards the doctoral degree, unless it constitutes a minor part of a thesis that consists of several connected pieces of work.

Several minor pieces of work may be approved as part of a doctoral thesis, provided that the content of this work forms a whole. In such cases, the individual parts are to be accompanied by a summary, giving a detailed account of the integration of the minor work.

Part of a joint work may be approved for evaluation (also as one of several pieces of work, cf. § 4), provided that the candidate's contribution represents an independent contribution that can be identified. In such cases the preface to the thesis is to make it evident how the candidate's work can be identified. If the thesis contains joint work, the candidate is to obtain a declaration from the co-author(s) that clearly states that he/she/they agree to the joint work being used as part of the doctoral thesis.

A piece of work or parts of a piece of work that is being evaluated for the doctoral degree at a Norwegian university or university college cannot be submitted for evaluation at other Norwegian universities or university colleges at the same time.

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

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

The thesis is to be part of the public domain.

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

#### **§ 4 Evaluation**

The doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of

- a) a recognized scientific thesis and its satisfactory defence in a public disputation
- b) two approved trial lectures

#### **§ 5 Submission of work/thesis**

The thesis and an application for evaluation of the thesis is to be submitted to the Faculty together with certified copies of examinations and degree certificates. If the applicant is in doubt about which Faculty should evaluate the thesis, the application can be addressed to Rector. If special permission according to § 2 is required, the applicant must document his/her studies and enclose previous scientific work. The application is submitted together with the thesis. At the time of submission, non-Nordic citizens are to state the grounds for applying in the application for admission to be evaluated for the degree. Should the applicant wish to use a language for the thesis other than those stated in § 3 of these regulations, an application for approval must be submitted together with the thesis.

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

Five copies of the thesis, bound or stitched, are to be submitted.

If the thesis is approved for disputation, 100 additional copies are to be submitted. A brief summary which may serve as a press release should accompany the thesis. The thesis is to be available to the public at least one month prior to the disputation.

A piece of work that has been submitted cannot be withdrawn until a final decision is reached as to whether or not it may be approved for defence for the doctoral degree. After submission, the doctoral candidate can only make corrections of a formal nature, provided that he/she submits an overview of all corrections made. Such an overview must be handed in no later than the submission of the chosen topic for the trial lecture, cf. § 8.

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

The Faculty is to appoint an expert adjudication committee of a minimum of three members, based on the proposal from the relevant academic department/unit. The committee is to evaluate the trial lecture(s), the thesis and its defence. The Faculty also appoints the administrator of the committee. At least two of the members are to be from outside the evaluating institution. Provided it is possible, the committee should have at least one member from a foreign institution. Both sexes should preferably be represented in the committee and if this is not the case, the Department is to specifically state the reason for this. The member of the under-represented sex is not normally to be the administrator of the committee. The members of the adjudication committee must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent academic qualifications. The provisions pertaining to disqualification in the Public Administration Act, § 6, apply to the members of the committee, cf. § 10 of the same Act. The doctoral candidate is to be informed of the composition of the committee.

## **§ 7 The committee's report, procedure for the report**

Before a deadline determined by the Faculty, the committee is to submit a commented report on whether the work is worthy of being defended for the doctoral degree. The report may be accompanied by individual statements. Grounds for any dissent must be given. The committee may require that the candidate submits source material, and additional supplementary and clarifying information.

The report of the adjudication committee including individual statements and/or statements of dissent is to be addressed 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 or not, these comments should be considered by the adjudication committee before the Faculty reaches a formal decision.

The report of the adjudication committee together with any additional comments is to be processed by the Faculty.

The doctoral candidate is to be informed of the results of the proceedings.

## **§ 8 Trial lectures and disputation**

If the thesis is found worthy for the defence of the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate is to hold two public trial lectures, one on a chosen topic and one on a prescribed topic. The candidate is to submit the title of the trial lecture of his/her own choice no later than one month prior to the disputation. The topic for the trial lecture on a prescribed topic is determined by the adjudication committee and is to be given to the candidate two weeks prior to the lecture. The disputation is normally to be held within six months after the thesis has been submitted. The trial lectures are to be held before the disputation. The trial lectures and the disputation shall be in the language of the written thesis, or in a language stated in these regulations.

The adjudication committee evaluates the trial lectures, which must be found satisfactory.

If the adjudication committee finds the trial lectures satisfactory, the doctoral candidate can then defend the doctoral degree thesis in a disputation.

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

The disputation is opened by the Dean of the Faculty or by the person delegated such authority. The leader of the disputation gives an account of the submission and the evaluation of the thesis, the trial lectures and the evaluation of these. Thereafter, the doctoral candidate reviews the objectives and the

results of the scientific research. The first opponent opens the discussion, and the second opponent concludes the disputation. Other persons present who wish to participate in the discussion during the disputation must give notice of this to the leader of the disputation within the time the leader has determined and announced at the opening.

After the disputation, the adjudication 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 is to conclude whether the examination as a whole has been deemed satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

If the trial lectures and/or the disputation are deemed unsatisfactory, a new test cannot be held until six months after the disputation. If possible, new tests should be evaluated by the original adjudication committee.

## **§ 9 Award and Diploma**

On the basis of the report from the adjudication committee that the trial lectures and the disputation have been deemed satisfactory, the Faculty awards the doctoral degree to the candidate.

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

## **§ 10 Appeal**

Rejection of an application for evaluation according to § 2, or rejection of the thesis, the trial lectures or the defence of the thesis may be appealed pursuant to § 28 of the Public Administration Act. The grounds for the appeal are to be sent to the Faculty.

The Faculty can change or reverse the decision should the appeal be found reasonable. If not, the appeal is forwarded to the Board for decision. The Board of appeal can investigate all aspects of the appealed decision. Should the Board find that there is reason to do so, it may appoint individuals or a committee to undertake an evaluation of the decision made and the criteria underlying it, also, decide whether a new or supplementary expert evaluation should be undertaken.

## **§ 11 Implementation**

The regulations are to come in effect immediately.