



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Faculty of Medicine

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DR.PHILOS. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Adopted by the University Senate on 25 September 1997 and coming into force on 1 January 1998.

§ 1 AIM OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

The degree of doctor philosophiae (dr.philos.) shall qualify the candidate for research activities and other kinds of work in the community where a high level of scientific insight and method is required.

§ 2 THE RIGHT TO APPLY

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

The Senate may, on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty, grant applicants who can prove equivalent qualifications in a discipline leave to apply for admission to the doctoral degree examination. The dissertation shall not be evaluated until admission is granted. The Senate, or the body so authorised by the Senate, evaluates the applicants qualifications and reaches a decision based on the documentation of previous studies and scientific works, cf. § 5. The Senate, or the body so authorised by the Senate, may require that the applicant follow special courses and/or pass a special test before admission to have the dissertation evaluated is granted. The application shall be submitted together with the doctoral degree dissertation.

A person who is not a Norwegian citizen or a citizen of one of the Nordic countries, may apply for admission to the dr.philos. examination provided the relevant Faculty recommends the application and the relevant academic community approves.

Admission will be granted preferentially if the dissertation

- treats topics or makes 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 DISSERTATION

The dissertation shall 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, documentation and form of presentation. The dissertation shall thus contribute to the development of new knowledge and be of an academic standard appropriate for publication as part of the literature in the relevant field.

The dissertation may be a self-contained piece of work or a continuation of a thesis

submitted towards a previous higher degree in the field. Also, the dissertation may be continuation of earlier academic work for higher degree examinations in the field.

Work previously accepted as a thesis towards a higher degree or towards the master's, 'magister' or 'licentiate' degree, or work previously awarded a medal in a University Prize competition cannot be evaluated as an individual piece of work towards the doctoral degree, unless it constitutes a minor part of a dissertation that consists of several conjoined pieces of work.

Several minor pieces of work may be approved as part of a doctoral dissertation, provided that the contents of these works form a whole. In such cases, the individual parts shall be accompanied by a summary, giving a detailed account of the integration of the minor works.

Normally only work published in the course of the last five years prior to submission of the dissertation may be included.

Part of a joint work may be approved for evaluation (also as one of several works, cf. section 4 below), provided that it represents an independent contribution, and that it can be identified if necessary for the evaluation. In such cases the co-authors and other persons who have been following the work will be asked to submit a declaration to identify the contribution of the doctoral candidate.

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 at the same time be submitted for evaluation at other Norwegian universities or university colleges.

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

The dissertation 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 to the relevant Faculty together with the dissertation.

The dissertation shall be made available to the public.

A doctoral dissertation 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 conjoined works, though at least six months must have elapsed after the Faculty's decision to reject the dissertation. A new evaluation can take place only once.

§ 4 EVALUATION

The doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of

- a) a recognised scientific dissertation and a satisfactory defence thereof in a public disputation
- b) two approved trial lectures.

§ 5 SUBMISSION OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation, and an application for evaluation of the dissertation, shall be submitted to the relevant Faculty, together with certified copies of examinations and degree certificates. If the applicant is in doubt about which Faculty should evaluate the dissertation, the application may be addressed to the Senate. If special admission

according to § 2 is required, the applicant must document his/her studies and enclose previous scientific works. The application is submitted together with the dissertation. Non-Nordic citizens shall at the time of submission enclose a reasoned application for admission to be evaluated for the degree. Should the applicant wish to use a language for the dissertation other than those stated in § 3 of these regulations, an application for approval must be submitted together with the dissertation.

Together with the dissertation, the doctoral candidate shall submit a written statement that the dissertation or parts thereof, has not been submitted for evaluation for the doctoral degree at any other Norwegian or foreign institution.

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

If the dissertation is approved for disputation, additional copies are to be submitted, the number to be determined by the relevant Faculty. Of the copies of the dissertation submitted, the University Library shall receive 40 copies. A brief summary which may serve as a press release should accompany the dissertation. The dissertation must be made 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 it may be approved for defence for the doctoral degree. After submission, the doctoral candidate can make corrections of a formal nature only, provided that he/she submits an overview of all corrections made. Such an overview must be handed in no later than one month before the disputation.

§ 6 APPOINTMENT OF AN ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

To evaluate the trial lecture(s), the dissertation and the defence thereof, the relevant Faculty/academic community appoints an expert adjudication committee of at least three members, based on the proposal put forward by the relevant department/community. The Faculty appoints the leader of the committee. At least one member appointed shall be from outside the University of Bergen. Provided this is possible, at least one member should be appointed from an overseas place of learning. If possible, both sexes should be represented on the committee. The members shall hold a doctoral degree or academic qualifications equivalent to a doctoral degree. The provisions pertaining to disqualification in the Public Administration Act, Ss. 6ff, apply to the members of the committee, cf. S. 10 of the same Act. The doctoral candidate shall 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 shall 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 dissent must be given. The committee may require that the doctoral candidate submit source material and additional supplementary and clarifying information.

The report of the adjudication committee, including individual statements and/or statements of dissent, shall be addressed to the Faculty and forwarded to the doctoral candidate as soon as possible. The candidate shall be given a deadline of at least one week for submitting any written comments to the report.

Should the comments of the doctoral candidate be significant for the recognition of the dissertation, these comments should be evaluated by the adjudication committee

before the Faculty reaches a formal decision in the matter.

The report of the adjudication committee, together with any additional comments, shall be dealt with by the Faculty executive committee. The Dean of the Faculty may recognise the report when it unanimously concludes that the doctoral candidate is to be given permission to defend his/her dissertation.

If the majority of the Faculty executive committee finds that the dissertation must be recognised, but at least two members object, the minority may require the case to be decided by the Senate. Such requirement must be submitted to a meeting of the Faculty executive committee by at least two members of the committee. Written grounds for their demand are to be submitted by both or all those making the demand, and these are to be presented no later than five working days after the date of the Faculty executive committee meeting. If this deadline is not met, the demand for Senate evaluation is considered to have been waived, and the decision of the Faculty executive board will become the ruling decision.

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

§ 8 TRIAL LECTURES AND DISPUTATION

If the dissertation is found worthy of being defended for the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate shall hold two public trial lectures, one on a chosen topic and one on a prescribed topic. The candidate shall 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 shall be announced to the candidate two weeks prior to the lecture. The disputation shall nominally be held within six months after the dissertation has been submitted. The trial lectures shall be held before the disputation.

The trial lectures and the disputation shall be in the language of the written dissertation, 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 shall defend the doctoral degree dissertation in a disputation.

The disputation shall be open to the public. There shall normally be two opponents. The opponents shall be members of the adjudication committee, and they shall 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 or by a person delegated such authority by the Dean. The leader of the disputation gives a brief account of the submission and evaluation of the dissertation, and of the trial lectures and the evaluation of these. Thereafter, the doctoral candidate reviews the objective and results of the scientific research. The first opponent opens the discussion, and the second opponent concludes the disputation. Nevertheless, the individual Faculty may draw up supplementary provisions setting out a different order of presentation and allocation of tasks between the doctoral candidate and the first opponent. Other persons present who wish to participate in the discussion must during the disputation 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 dissertation. The report shall conclude whether the tests are 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 CONFERMENT AND DIPLOMA

On the basis of the report from the adjudication committee that the trial lectures and the disputation have been deemed satisfactory, the Senate confers the doctoral degree on the candidate.

A doctoral degree diploma is issued by the Senate. The diploma shall state the title of the dissertation 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 dissertation, the trial lectures or the defence of the dissertation pursuant to §§6 and 7 may be appealed pursuant to S. 28 ff of the Public Administration Act. A reasoned appeal shall be sent to the Faculty.

After the appeal has been presented to the adjudication committee, the Faculty may set aside or change the decision should the appeal be found reasonable. If not, the appeal is forwarded to the Senate for decision. If the appealed decision has been made by the Senate, and no reason to set aside or change the decision can be found, the appeal is sent to the Ministry for decision. The appeal body can try all sides of the appealed decision. Should the appeal body find that there is reason to do so, a committee or individual persons may be appointed to undertake an evaluation of the decision made and of the criteria underlying it, or to carry out a new or supplementary expert evaluation.

§ 11 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

The individual faculty may draw up supplementary provisions to these Regulations. Such supplementary provisions shall be submitted to the Senate for approval.

[Back to index page](#)