Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of South-Eastern Norway

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Table of contents

Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of South-Eastern Norway.....1
Table of contents 1
Chapter 1. Introductory provisions 2
Chapter 2. Admissions 2
Chapter 3. Implementation 5
Chapter 4. Completion.....8
Chapter 5. *Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements*.....13
Chapter 6. Appeals.....13
Chapter 7. Transitional provisions and entry into force 14

This is an unofficial translation of the Norwegian version of the Regulation and is provided for information purposes only. Legal authenticity remains with the Norwegian version as published in Norsk Lovtidend. In the event of any inconsistency, the Norwegian version shall prevail.

Legal basis: Adopted by the Board of the University College of South-Eastern Norway (now the University of South-Eastern Norway) on 14 December 2017 pursuant to the Act of 1 April 2005 No. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges (the University and University Colleges Act)§ 3-3, § 3-9 and § 4-13.
Added legal basis: Act of 8 March 2024 No. 9 relating to Universities and University Colleges (the University and University Colleges Act) § 13-1 and § 17-3.
Amended by regulations of 15 June, 2018 No. 1072 (including title), 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Chapter 1. Introductory provisions

Section 1-1. *Scope*

These Regulations apply to all doctoral education at the institution. The regulations deal with the objectives, responsibilities, admission to, implementation, and completion of the PhD programme, including agreements on joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements. (joint supervision).

Chapter 2. Admissions

Section 2-1. *Admission requirements*

(1) In order to be admitted to the PhD programme, applicants must, as a general rule, have a five-year higher education degree (Master's degree) with a weighted average grade of B or higher. After special assessment, the institution may approve other equivalent education in the relevant subject area as a basis for admission.

(2) Applications for admission to the PhD programme should normally be submitted within three months of the start of the research work that will lead to the doctoral degree. If less than one year of full-time work on the research project remains at the time of application, the applicant will be rejected.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-2. *Applications*

(1) Applications for admission must be submitted to the institution using the prescribed application form.

(2) An application must contain:

a. documentation of the education that provides a basis for admission
b. a description of the research project, which includes an academic account of the research project, a progress plan and preliminary publication plan
c. a plan for the training component
d. documentation of funding
e. documentation of special needs for academic and material resources
f. plans for stays at other institutions, including foreign institutions
g. information about any intellectual property rights restrictions in order to protect the rights of others
h. the names of at least one proposed co-supervisor and a proposed main supervisor, as well as a description of an active research community and an assessment from the proposed main supervisor regarding the feasibility of the project.
i. an account of any legal or ethical issues raised by the project and how these shall be resolved. The application must indicate if the project is dependent on permissions from research ethics committees or other authorities or from private individuals (informants, patients, parents etc.). If possible, such permissions should be obtained and attached to the application.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-3. ***Infrastructure***

(1) PhD candidates shall have access to the infrastructure they need to complete their research project. The infrastructure they need to complete their research project will be determined when the decision regarding admission is made.

(2) For PhD candidates with an external place of work, an agreement concerning the infrastructure they need will be entered into between the institution and the external party for each research project. Such an agreement shall normally be entered into when the decision regarding the PhD candidate's admission is made, or immediately afterwards.

Section 2-4. ***Decision on admission***

(1) Decisions regarding admission shall be made by the programme committee based on an overall assessment of the application.

(2) As a general rule, the decision shall include the appointment of two supervisors and the established agreement period. The starting date must be the same as the date funding commences or the date a PhD candidate who will be on staff takes up their post.

(3) The training component is approved by the programme committee. If there is a need to make significant changes to the training component during the course of study, the revised training component shall be sent to the programme committee for approval.

(4) Applications for admission may be rejected if one or more of the following situations exist:
a. agreements with external third parties will hinder any publication and public defence of the thesis
b. the intellectual property rights agreements that have been signed will hinder what is regarded as normal implementation
c. funding has not been secured for the entire period

(5) Conditional admission may be granted if some of the admission requirements have not been met on the date of admission. In such circumstances, the applicant shall be given a deadline of not more than three months to meet the requirements that have not been met.

(6) General criteria may be established for ranking qualified applicants when the number of applicants exceeds programme capacity.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-5. ***Final project description***

(1) Where a final project description has not already been prepared, the PhD candidate must, as quickly as possible, and normally within three months after admission, prepare a final project description together with their supervisors and any co-researchers. This shall contain:
a. a description of the research project
b. a work plan for completion of the research project
c. a publication plan
d. plans for stays at other institutions

(2) Final project descriptions are approved by the programme committee.

Section 2-6. ***PhD agreement***

(1) Admission to one of the institution's PhD programmes is formalised in a written agreement signed by the PhD candidate, supervisor(s) and institution. The agreement governs the parties' rights and obligations during the programme. It shall ensure that a candidate regularly participates in an active research community and lay the groundwork for completion of the PhD programme by the agreed deadline. The institution's template shall be used and it shall normally be signed no later than three weeks after admission.

(2) Where PhD candidates receive funding from or are employed by an external party, a separate agreement between the candidate, institution and external party must be entered into.

(3) Where PhD candidates will be affiliated with foreign institutions, such as in the case of joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements, guidelines for such collaboration must be followed and separate agreements must be entered into using the prescribed form. Agreements concerning joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements shall normally be entered into at the same time as the PhD agreement.

(4) If significant changes take place in relation to the agreed conditions, a new agreement must be drawn up.

Section 2-7. *Period of study and agreement period*

(1) The standard length of PhD programme is three years of full-time study. The maximum period of study is normally six years from the starting date to submission of the PhD thesis. Statutory interruptions and career-development work are not included in the six-year period.

(2) The programme committee may extend the agreement period upon an application stating the grounds for such extension. Any extension of the admission period must be based on statutory employee rights or specifically clarified with respect to the PhD candidate's basis for funding. Where an extension is granted, the programme committee may set additional conditions/requirements.

(3) Upon expiry of the agreement period, the PhD candidate's admission to a specific programme, right to supervision and access to the university's infrastructure cease. However, the PhD candidate has the right to apply to submit their thesis for assessment for the PhD degree.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-8. *Voluntary termination before the agreed end date*

(1) The PhD programme may be terminated before expiry of the admission period. In the event of a PhD programme being terminated in such a manner, the PhD agreement's provisions concerning termination of employment, funding, rights to results, etc., shall be followed.

(2) In the event of voluntary termination due to the candidate's desire to change project or transfer to a different programme, the PhD candidate must reapply for admission on the basis of the new project.

Section 2-9. *Involuntary termination due to delay or a lack of progress*

(1) Where one or more of the following criteria is met, the programme committee may recommend termination of the PhD programme (involuntary termination):

a. Completion of the training component is significantly delayed
b. Repeated or substantial breaches on the part of the PhD candidate of their obligations to inform, follow up or report, including failure to submit a progress report, cf. Section 3-7.
c. delay in the progress of the project that provides reasonable grounds for doubting whether the PhD candidate will be able to complete the project by the agreed deadline.
d. Involuntary termination pursuant to these rules may only be approved if the failure to make progress or the delay are due to circumstances over which the PhD candidate has control

(2) Decisions on involuntary termination pursuant to this provision are made by the Faculty Board.

(3) Appeals against decisions pursuant to this provision are processed by the institution's Committee for Student Affairs, cf. Section 14-1 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-10. *Annulment in the event of cheating on examinations or tests*

(1) In the event of cheating on examinations or tests during the programme, the institution may decide on annulment, cf. Section 12-4 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

(2) Decisions on annulment are made by the Board or by the institution's Committee for Student Affairs.

(3) Appeals against annulment decisions are processed by the institution's Committee for Student Affairs, cf. Section 14-1 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-11. *Involuntary termination in the event of scientific misconduct*

(1) If a PhD candidate is guilty of scientific misconduct, cf. Section 12-4 (1) of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges and Section 8 (2) of the Act on Ethics and Integrity in Research, the institution may decide on involuntary termination.

(2) Decisions concerning involuntary termination due to scientific misconduct shall be made by the relevant body stipulated by the Board.

(3) Appeals against decisions made pursuant this provision are processed by the ministry or a special appeals committee appointed by the ministry.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 2-12. *Termination and dismissal*

A candidate may be dismissed from their position as a doctoral research fellow where reasonable grounds exist that affect the situation of either the institution or the employee, cf. sections 19 and 20 of the Civil Service Act, or dismissed pursuant to Section 26.

Chapter 3. Implementation

Section 3-1. *Supervision*

Work on a PhD thesis shall be conducted under individual supervision. The institution and supervisors shall collectively ensure that the PhD candidate participates in an active research community.

Section 3-2. *Appointment of supervisors*

(1) A PhD candidate shall have at least two supervisors, one of which will be appointed their main supervisor. The main supervisor shall normally be appointed at the time of admission and shall normally be employed at the institution. If the main supervisor is not employed by the institution, one of the co-supervisors should be employed there.

(2) The main supervisor has primary academic responsibility for the PhD candidate.

(3) Co-supervisors are experts who provide guidance and share academic responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor.

(4) The rules on impartiality in Section 2 of the Public Administration Act apply to the supervisors.

(5) All supervisors shall hold PhD degrees or equivalent qualifications in the relevant field of study and shall be active researchers. At least one of the appointed supervisors should have previous experience and/or training in supervising PhD candidates.

(6) Changes in the supervisor group shall be approved by the programme committee. A PhD candidate and supervisor may ask the programme committee to appoint a new supervisor for the candidate. A supervisor may not step down until a new supervisor has been appointed. A new supervisor shall be appointed within a reasonable period of time. The programme committee is also responsible for immediately appointing a new supervisor or supervisors in the event of long-term illness, leave or similar.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-3. *Content and scope of supervision*

(1) The main supervisor and the candidate are responsible for ensuring that the candidate is in regular contact with their supervisors. The candidate must be part of an active research community.

(2) The supervisors shall provide advice and supervise the candidate in every phase of the research project and ensure good dialogue with co-researchers. A detailed description of the supervisors' duties is provided in supplementary provisions.

(3) Supervisors have a duty to stay informed of the progress of the PhD candidate's work and to assess this in relation to the candidate's work plan.

(4) Supervisors have a duty to follow up academic matters that may delay completion of the organised research training, so that this can be completed within the standard time.

Section 3-4. *Purpose, content and scope of the training component*

(1) The PhD programme must be organised such that it can be completed within the standard time.

(2) The programme committee is responsible for ensuring that the training component, along with the thesis work, provides education of a high academic standard and is in accordance with international standards, including the completion of a research project, training in academic dissemination, and introduction to research ethics, philosophy of science, and research methodology.

(3) The training component shall correspond to at least 30 credits, of which at least 20 must be completed after admission. Courses that will be included in the training component should not be older than two years on the date of admission. Sufficient time shall be set aside for the research component of the programme. If the institution does not offer all of the training component, arrangements shall be made for the PhD candidate to receive equivalent instruction at another institution.

(4) For subjects included in the training component where course provision is not available, an individually adapted course (elective course), with prepared literature lists, will be approved.

(5) PhD-level courses and subjects from another institution shall be recognised in accordance with the provisions stipulated in Section 9-3 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-5. *PhD candidates' rights during leave*

PhD candidates who are on parental leave from a PhD programme are entitled to follow instruction/teaching and take examinations during the period of leave.

Section 3-6. *Residency requirement*

(1) PhD candidates will normally spend a minimum of one year at the institution.

(2) The residency requirement may be split into two periods and may be reduced if it can be documented that the PhD candidate is participating in an active research community and that the academic requirements concerning supervision are being met.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-7. *Reporting*

(1) The PhD candidate and the main supervisor are equally responsible for annually reporting on the PhD candidate's work and progress.

(2) Any failure to submit reports or inadequate reporting on the part of the PhD candidate may result in the involuntary termination of PhD education before the end of the agreement period.

(3) Main supervisors who fail to comply with their reporting duties may be relieved of their supervisory responsibilities.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-8. ***Midway assessment***

(1) A midway assessment of the PhD work shall be conducted, normally in the third or fourth semester, depending on whether there is an agreement for 3 or 4 years. The PhD candidate shall present their work and be assessed by a group of at least two people appointed by the programme committee. The assessment group shall assess the academic status and progress of the PhD work and provide feedback to the PhD candidate, supervisor and programme committee.

(2) The primary purpose of the midway assessment, like the annual reporting, is to help PhD candidates identify factors that entail a risk to the project in the form of obstacles or delays, as well as to provide input which may improve the quality of the work. The programme committee, supervisors and PhD candidate have a duty to actively follow up circumstances that may result in delay or failure to complete the PhD programme so that, to the extent possible, the programme can be completed within the standard time frame.

(3) If the midway assessment identities significant weaknesses in the research work, measures shall be taken to remedy the situation.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-9. ***Requirements for PhD theses***

(1) The thesis shall be an independent piece of research work or research and development work that meets international standards with respect to ethical requirements, academic standards and methodology within the relevant field of study.

(2) The thesis shall contribute to developing new academic knowledge and shall be of such a standard that it can be published or made public in a suitable format as a part of the discipline's international, scientific literature.

(3) The PhD candidate has a duty to store research data in accordance with the institution's guidelines for this.

(4) The thesis may consist of a compilation of multiple scientific works (articles) or a monograph. If the thesis consists of multiple works, an account of the relationship between them shall be provided, as shall a review of the literature in the discipline.

(5) The main component of the thesis may consist of a new product, a systematised collection of materials or be in another form of presentation (for example, audio, image, video, electronic forms of presentation) where its theoretical and methodological bases are not evident from the product itself. In such cases, the thesis shall have a supplement, in addition to presenting the product itself. The supplement shall be a written account of the research question, choice of theory and methodology, and assessment of the results in accordance with international standards and academic standards within the relevant field of study.

(6) A thesis, or parts thereof, that has been produced in collaboration with other authors or collaborators shall comply with the norms for co-authorship generally accepted in the research community and in accordance with international standards. If the thesis primarily consists of articles, the PhD candidate shall normally be the primary author of at least half of the articles.

(7) Where a thesis includes works with multiple authors or collaborators, the PhD candidate's contribution and the allocation of rights among authors shall be agreed in advance.

(8) PhD theses shall be submitted in the language most relevant to the research front. This will primarily be English or Norwegian. If, for academic reasons, another language must be used, this must have been applied for at the time of admission.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-10. ***Work not eligible for assessment***

(1) Works, or parts of a work, that have been accepted as a basis for previously completed examinations or degrees may not be submitted for assessment unless the work is included as a minor part of a thesis consisting of multiple related works. However, data, analyses or methods used in previous degrees may be used as a basis for work on the PhD project.

(2) Where published works are used, these cannot be accepted as a part of a thesis if they were published more than five years before the date of admission. The programme committee may grant an exemption from this requirement if extraordinary circumstances warrant it.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 3-11. *Rights to use results and notification requirement*

(1) A PhD candidate's rights to use their results, patentable inventions, copyrights, etc. are governed by the institution's guidelines and by the rules laid down in the Act respecting the Right to Employees' Inventions.

(2) For those parts of a PhD candidate's thesis to which only the candidate holds the copyright, and other works that are the result of work on the thesis to which only the candidate holds the copyright, the institution has a non-exclusive right of use for instructional and research purposes. The PhD candidate shall be named as stipulated by the law and good practice.

(3) The regulation of rights between collaborating institutions shall be stipulated in an agreement between the parties.

(4) A PhD candidate has a duty to provide notification of work results with the potential for commercial exploitation.

(5) The institution's guidelines shall act as the starting point for the duty to provide notification that PhD candidates employed at the institution have with respect to work results with the potential for commercial exploitation.

(6) In cases where a PhD candidate has an external employer, the notification requirement shall be stipulated in a separate agreement between the institution, PhD candidate and external employer.

(7) In cases where a PhD candidate does not have an employer, the scope of the notification requirement shall be stipulated in the PhD agreement.

Chapter 4. Completion

Section 4-1. *Basis for assessment*

A PhD degree is conferred on the basis of the following compulsory and approved elements:

a. an academic thesis
b. completion of the programme's training component
c. a doctoral degree examination, consisting of a trial lecture on a specified subject and a public defence of the thesis

Section 4-2. *Period between submission and public defence*

(1) The institution shall ensure that the period between submission and public defence is as short as possible. Normally, no more than five months shall pass from submission to public defence.

(2) It is the main supervisor's responsibility to inform the programme committee of the submission date so that necessary preparations can begin.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-3. *Application for assessment of the PhD thesis*

(1) An application for assessment of the thesis may not be submitted until the training component has been approved.

(2) An application must contain:

a. the thesis in an approved format and in accordance with the institution's regulations, in the form and with the number of copies the institution has stipulated

b. documentation of required permissions
c. documentation of the completed and approved training component
d. co-author declarations where this is required
e. declaration concerning whether the PhD work is being submitted for assessment for the first or second time
f. declaration that the PhD work has not been submitted for assessment at another institution
g. declaration with a description of the PhD candidate's contribution to the thesis
h. declaration regarding completed check for plagiarism
i. declaration of publication of the thesis in the institution's electronic research repository.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-4. ***Processing applications***

(1) The programme committee processes applications for assessments of theses. Applications that do not satisfy the requirements in Section 4-3 shall be rejected.

(2) The programme committee can reject an application for assessment of a thesis if it is obvious that the thesis is not of a sufficiently high academic standard and would not be approved by a committee.

Section 4-5. ***Appointment of the assessment committee***

(1) An expert committee of at least three members shall be appointed to assess the thesis and the public defence. The rules on impartiality in Section 2 of the Public Administration Act apply to the committee's members. The committee's composition should normally have been determined at the time of submission.

(2) The assessment committee shall normally be composed in such a way that:
a. both genders are represented
b. at least two of the members have no affiliation with the institution
c. at least one of the members should hold a primary position at a foreign institution
d. at least one of the members is a member of the institution's permanent staff
e. all of the members hold a doctoral degree or equivalent qualifications
f. the majority of the assessment committee are external members

(3) If the criteria mentioned in the second paragraph are deviated from, specific grounds must be given for this.

(4) The committee's composition must be explained and this must show how, as a whole, it covers the subject area of the thesis. The member of the committee who is on the institution's permanent staff shall be the committee's administrator.

(5) Appointed supervisors, co-researchers and others who have contributed to the thesis may not be a member of the assessment committee or administer it.

(6) The PhD candidate shall be informed of the proposed composition of the committee and shall have an opportunity to submit written comments on its composition within one week after the candidate has been informed of the proposed committee.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-6. ***Obtaining supplementary information***

(1) The assessment committee may require submission of a PhD candidate's source material and supplementary additional information.

(2) The assessment committee may ask the supervisor to give an account of the supervision and the work done on a PhD thesis.

Section 4-7. ***Revision of submitted theses***

(1) The assessment committee may recommend, based on the submitted PhD thesis and any additional material, that the programme committee grant permission for minor revision before a final recommendation is made. The committee shall provide a written summary of what the candidate must revise.

(2) If the programme committee permits a minor revision of a thesis, a deadline shall be provided for such revision which normally should not exceed three months. Decisions on setting deadlines may not be appealed. The deadline for the final recommendation from the assessment committee runs from the date the revised PhD thesis is resubmitted.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-8. ***Recommendation of the assessment committee***

(1) The assessment committee shall recommend whether or not a PhD thesis should be approved for public defence. The reasons for the recommendation and any dissent shall be provided.

(2) The programme committee can set a deadline for the assessment committee's recommendation. The assessment committee's recommendation shall normally be made within three months after the committee has received a thesis. In special cases, the programme committee may postpone the deadline.

(3) The assessment committee's recommendation will be submitted to the programme committee, which will present it to the PhD candidate. The PhD candidate is given a deadline of ten working days to present any written comments they have about the report. If the PhD candidate does not wish to submit comments, the programme committee shall be notified of this in writing as soon as possible.

(4) If the committee finds that extensive changes concerning theories, hypotheses, materials or methodologies are necessary before a thesis can be recommended for public defence, the PhD thesis shall not be approved.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-9. ***Withdrawal and correction of formal errors in PhD theses***

(1) A submitted thesis may not be withdrawn before a final decision has been made about whether or not it can be approved for public defence.

(2) A PhD candidate may apply for permission to correct formal errors in a thesis after submission. The application must be accompanied by a complete list of the errors (errata) the candidate wishes to correct. Applications for correction of formal errors must be submitted no later than the deadline for submitting written comments on the recommendation from the assessment committee, cf. Section 4-8 (3). This type of application may only be submitted once.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-10. ***The institution's processing of the assessment committee's recommendation***

(1) Based on the assessment committee's recommendation, the programme committee will decide whether the PhD thesis shall be approved for public defence.

(2) If the programme committee finds that reasonable doubt exists as to whether the committee's unanimous recommendation should be followed, the programme committee shall itself seek further clarification from the assessment committee and/or appoint two new experts who will give individual opinions on the thesis. Such additional opinions or individual opinions shall be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given an opportunity to respond with comments.

(3) If the committee issues a split recommendation and the programme committee decides to base its decision on the majority opinion, the programme committee will make a decision in accordance with the majority's recommendation. If the committee issues a split recommendation and the programme committee considers basing its decision on the minority opinion, the programme committee may seek further clarification from the assessment committee and/or appoint two new experts who will give individual opinions on the thesis. Such

additional opinions or individual opinions shall be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given an opportunity to respond with comments. If both the new experts concur with the majority's recommendation in the original committee recommendation, this recommendation shall be followed. The PhD candidate shall be informed of the opinions from the new experts.

Section 4-11. *Application for new assessment of rejected thesis*

A PhD thesis that has not been approved for public defence (rejected) may not be assessed in its revised form until six months after the institution has made its decision. In this case, the program committee will appoint a new assessment committee in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Section 4-5. At least one of the members from the original committee should be reappointed. A thesis may only be reassessed once. Upon resubmission, the candidate must state that the work has previously been assessed at the University of South-Eastern Norway or another institution and not found worthy of public defence.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-12. *Requirements for printed PhD theses*

(1) When a thesis has been approved for public defence, the candidate shall submit the thesis to the institution in an approved format and in accordance with institution's regulations.

(2) The PhD candidate shall submit a brief summary of the thesis in Norwegian or English. If the thesis is not written in Norwegian or English, a summary shall also be submitted in the language used in the thesis.

Section 4-13. *Publication of the thesis*

(1) The PhD thesis must be publicly available no later than two weeks before the date of the public defence. The PhD thesis will be made available in the form in which it was submitted for assessment, possibly after revision based on the committee's preliminary comments. The PhD thesis is considered published when one of the following conditions occurs:

a. the thesis is made available digitally
b. the thesis is made available in paper copy.

(2) No restrictions may be placed on the publication of the PhD thesis with the exception of a pre-agreed postponement of the publication date. Such a postponement may take place to allow the institution and any external party that has fully or partly funded the PhD programme to consider potential patenting. An external party may not require that all or part of the PhD thesis be exempt from public disclosure/publication.

(3) On publication of a thesis, the candidate must adhere to the applicable guidelines for the crediting of institutions. The general rule is that an institution must be given as the address in a publication if it has provided a necessary and significant contribution to, or basis for, an author's participation in the published work. The same author shall also list other institutions as an address if they meet the contribution requirement in each individual case.

(4) The summary shall, like the thesis itself, be made publicly available.

Section 4-14. *Trial lecture*

(1) A trial lecture is an independent component of a doctoral examination and shall be on a given topic.

(2) The title of the trial lecture is set by the assessment committee and announced to the PhD candidate ten working days before the lecture. The topic of the trial lecture must not be directly related to the topic of the thesis.

(3) The trial lecture shall be given in the language used in the thesis, unless the programme committee approves another language.

(4) The trial lecture shall normally last 45 minutes.

(5) The assessment committee that has approved the thesis shall assess the trial lecture. If the trial lecture and public defence are assessed separately, the programme committee may, in consultation with the assessment

committee, appoint a committee to assess the trial lecture. In these circumstances, at least one of the assessment committee members shall be appointed to the lecture committee.

(6) The trial lecture must be approved before a public defence may be conducted. A new trial lecture must be held on a new topic and not later than six months after the first attempt.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-15. *Public defence*

(1) The public defence of the thesis shall normally take place within two months after the thesis has been deemed worthy of defence. The time and place for the public defence shall be announced at least ten working days before it is held.

(2) The public defence is to be conducted in Norwegian or English, unless the programme committee approves another language.

(3) There shall normally be two opponents who are appointed by the programme committee. The two opponents shall be external members of the assessment committee. The committee which originally assessed the thesis will also assess the public defence.

(4) The public defence is chaired by the dean of the host faculty or a person authorised by the dean. Thereafter, the PhD candidate shall normally be given 20 to 30 minutes to present the PhD thesis.

(5) The opponents will decide how to divide up their tasks between them. After both opponents have concluded their opposition, the other people present will be given an opportunity to comment ex auditorio. One of the opponents will conclude the opposition, and the chair will conclude the public defence.

(6) After the trial lecture and the public defence, the assessment committee submits its recommendation to the programme committee, stating whether the public defence is approved or not. The recommendation shall contain:

a. the committee's assessment of the PhD thesis
b. the committee's assessment of the trial lecture
c. the committee's assessment of the public defence of the PhD thesis
d. the committee's assessment of the standard of the PhD thesis in an international context

(7) The programme committee makes a decision on the approval of the doctoral examination in accordance with Section 4-1 (c), based on the assessment committee's recommendation.

(4) If the assessment committee does not approve the public defence, the PhD candidate may defend the thesis one more time. The new public defence may, at the earliest, be held after six months and will, insofar as it is possible, be assessed by the same committee as the original.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-16. *Conferring of degrees and diplomas*

(1) The Rector confers the degree of Philosophiae Doctor based on the programme committee's decision to approve the doctoral examination.

(2) Diplomas are issued by the institution. The diploma shall contain information regarding the title of the degree, topic of the trial lecture, approved courses in the training component, supervisors and the members of the assessment committee. (3) The institution shall also issue a diploma supplement.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 4-17. *(Repealed)*

0 Repealed by regulation 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Chapter 5. *Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements*

Section 5-1. *Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements*

(1) The institution may enter into a partnership with one or more Norwegian or foreign institutions on collaboration in the form of an agreement regarding joint degrees or cotutelle arrangements. If such an agreement means that one or more of the provisions in these regulations must be deviated from, the agreement shall be submitted to the Rector for final approval. Joint degrees shall normally only be entered into if an established, stable academic collaboration already exists between the institution and at least one of the other consortium participants.

(2) Joint degrees mean a collaboration between multiple institutions which are all jointly responsible for admissions, supervision, conferring degrees and other matters. The collaboration will normally be organised as a consortium and governed by an agreement between the consortium participants. Joint diplomas are issued for completed joint degrees in the form of:

a. a diploma document issued by all of the consortium members
b. a diploma from each of the consortium participants
c. a combination of a) and b)

(3) Cotutelle agreements mean joint supervision of PhD candidates and collaboration on the education of PhD candidates. A cotutelle agreement is entered into for each individual candidate and must be based on a stable, academic institutional collaboration.

(4) The requirement for a public defence involving an impartial assessment committee cannot be waived.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Chapter 6. Appeals

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 6-1. *Appeals against rejections of applications for admission, decisions on involuntary termination of the PhD programme, and appeals against rejections of application for approval of elements of the training component*

(1) A rejection of an application for admission, decisions regarding involuntary termination of a PhD programme, and rejections of application for approval of elements of the training component can be appealed pursuant to the regulations stipulated in the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

(2) Appeals against decisions must be submitted in writing to the programme committee and contain the grounds for the appeal. The programme committee's recommendation shall accompany the appeal as the presentation of the case for the Appeals Committee.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 6-2. *Appeals against examinations in the training component*

(1) Examinations taken as part of the training component may be appealed against pursuant to sections 11-9 and 11-10 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

(2) The procedures for dealing with suspected cheating or attempted cheating shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 6-3. ***Appeals against rejections of applications for assessment or recommendations not to approve PhD theses, trial lectures or public defences***

(1) Rejections of applications to have PhD theses assessed and decisions not to approve theses, trial lectures or public defences may be appealed against in accordance with the regulations stipulated in Section 28 et seq. of the Public Administration Act and Section 13-1 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

(2) Appeals against decisions must be submitted in writing to the institution. The Appeals Committee shall examine all aspects of the case. If the Appeals Committee deems it necessary for clarification of the case, individuals or a committee shall be appointed to assess the decision that was taken and the criteria on which it was based or to make a new or supplementary expert assessment.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Chapter 7. Transitional provisions and entry into force

0 Heading added by regulation 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025).

Section 7-1. ***Transitional provisions***

Individuals granted admission pursuant to:

- repealed regulation of 9 May 2014 No. 868 relating to the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University College of Buskerud and Vestfold.
- repealed regulation of 11 June 2015 No. 1075 relating to the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University College of Telemark.
- repealed regulation of 18 December 2015 No. 1893 relating to the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University College of South-Eastern Norway.

retain the rights pursuant to these regulations in cases where the provisions are advantageous to the candidate.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025, previously Section 6-4).

Section 7-2. ***Entry into force***

(1) These Regulations enter into force immediately.

(2) As of the same date, regulations of 18 December 2015 No. 1893 relating to the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University College of South-Eastern Norway are repealed.

0 Amended by regulation of 12 June, 2025 No. 1439 (in force 1 August, 2025, previously Section 6-5).