



SYNOPSIS AT VID – guidelines for article-based dissertations at VID Specialized University

In the Guidelines and supplementary provisions for the PhD programs at VID Specialized University, the following special rules apply to article-based dissertations:

- The dissertation must consist of at least three articles, where the doctoral student is the sole or first author of at least 50% of the articles. The extent of own contribution in articles with multiple authors must be stated in the co-author declaration.
- At least one of the articles must be published or accepted for publication in a recognized, peer-reviewed and preferably international publication channel when the thesis is submitted. The others must be accepted for publication or in publishable form.
- The doctoral student must be the sole author of the thesis.
- The scope of the chapter must be 50-100 pages (equivalent to 20,000-40,000 words).
- The synopsis must explain the context of the thesis and ensure that the thesis is presented as a whole.
- The thesis' contribution to the research field must be made clear.

Guidance on the content of the synopsis

How the synopsis is organized may vary based on traditions in the various disciplines and the specific nature of the individual study. This means that elements may be placed in different places in the cover. Some elements, such as theory and research overview, must be dimensioned based on the place these elements have been given in the articles. The main requirement is that the synopsis must be an independent scientific work. It must explain the context of the thesis, ensure that it appears as a whole, and clarify the thesis' contribution to the field.

The following elements must be included in the synopsis:

- An abstract in Norwegian (Scandinavian) and English, and a list of the articles with full bibliographic information
- An introduction, which describes the purpose of the thesis and provides a brief introduction to the whole
- Contextualization within the PhD program, and within the research field in which the thesis is placed
- Existing research that provides the background for the project
- Theoretical framework
- The overall problem for the entire project, and the research question(s)
- Methodology, i.e. the choice of method based on the problem and a critical philosophy of science reasoning
- Description of material, method and design

- Discussion of research ethics
- The results of the project. Here, each of the articles is presented with results, and at the same time the results for the project as a whole are shown
- Overall discussion of the project, including a clarification of the thesis' contribution to the research field
- Appendices are relevant for most empirical theses, such as interview guides, consent forms, permissions, etc.

Useful literature

Krumsvik, R. J. (Red.) (2016). En doktorgradsutdanning i endring – et fokus på den artikkelbaserte ph.d.-avhandlingen. Fagbokforlaget.

Krumsvik, R. J. (Red.) (2022). Academic writing in scientific journals versus doctoral theses. The article-based thesis and the synopsis. *Nordic Journal of Digital Literacy*, 17 (2), 78-94. <https://doi.org/10.18261/njdl.17.2.1>

Vaglum, P. (2010). Doktoravhandlingens sammenstilling – hva skal den inneholde? *Tidsskriftet for Den norske legeforening*, 130 (16), 1632-34.

Haara, F. O. & Smith, K. (2011). Kappen: «One size fits all»? *Uniped*, 34(03), 79-86. <https://doi.org/10.18261/ISSN1893-8981-2011-03-07>