

Regulations for the PhD Degree at VID Specialized University

This English translation is for information. For all legal purposes the original document in Norwegian is the authoritative version.

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Chapter outline:

Chapter 1. Introductory provisions (§§ 1 - 4)

Chapter 2. Admission, agreement and termination before the agreed date (§§ 5 - 6)

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Chapter 4. Completion (§§ 12 – 22)

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Pursuant to: Approved by the Board of VID Specialized University 11. December 2015 pursuant to Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges 1. April 2005 no. 15 § 3-3, § 3-5, § 3-6, § 3-7, § 3-9, § 4-7, § 4-13, § 5-2 and § 5-3

Chapter 1. Introductory provisions

§ 1.Ambit

This regulation is valid for all programmes of study that lead to the PhD Degree at VID Specialized University. The regulation encompasses rules concerning admission, implementation and completion of the PhD Programme, including joint degrees and cotutelle.

§ 2. Objective, scope and content of the PhD Programme

The PhD Programme at VID Specialized University qualifies for research activities of international standards and other societal work with strict requirements of academic insight and analytic thinking in accordance with good scientific practice and ethical standards of research.

The PhD Programme provide students with knowledge, skills and qualifications in accordance with the third cycle in the National Qualification Framework for Higher Education.

The nominal length of the PhD Programme is three (3) years of full time studies and includes a training component of minimum 30 ECTS.

The most important component of the PhD Programme is an independent research project which is carried out under supervision.

The PhD Degree is awarded on the basis of:

- a) Approved academic dissertation
- b) Approved implementation of the training component, or other approved academic training or competence.
- c) Approved trial lecture on an appointed subject
- d) Approved public defence of the dissertation (disputation).

§ 3.The responsibility concerning the PhD Programme

The board at VID Specialized University has prime responsibility for the PhD Programme. The Rector of the University has been appointed by the board to manage the PhD Programme and make the necessary decisions within the framework of this regulation.

§ 4.Quality assurance

The PhD Programme is regulated by the Quality Assurance System at the University, cf. § 9.

Chapter 2. Admission, agreement and termination before the agreed date

§ 5.Admission, duration of the agreement and termination before the agreed date

§ 5-1. Admissions provisions

Admission to the PhD Programme normally requires five years of basic education (i.e. at least a Master's Degree or equivalent competence), cf. the specifications in the second cycle of the National Qualification Framework. The University may, after specific individual assessment, approve other equivalent education as a basis for admission. Applicants may be required to take certain courses and/or special tests prior to admission.

The application should include:

- a) Documentation of the educational basis for the admission
- b) A project description including:
 - i. An academic account of the project
 - ii. Progress
 - iii. Funding
 - iv. Documentation of special needs for academic and material resources
 - v. Potential plans concerning residence at other institutions
 - vi. Academic communication
 - vii. Information about any restrictions concerning intellectual property rights
- c) A plan for the training component, including instructions aimed at general competence in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework.
- d) A suggestion of at least one academic supervisor and indication of their affiliation to an active research environment.
- e) An account of any legal or ethical problems raised by the project and how these can be settled.

The University determines the application form and may settle requirements for further documentation.

The PhD-student and primary supervisor should, as soon as possible, and no later than three (3) months after admission, look through the project description and decide if there is any need for adjustments. The project description should account for subject, problems and choice of theory and method.

The University may require obligatory residence.

Normally, application for admission to the PhD Programme must be submitted within three (3) months of starting the research project leading to the PhD Degree. If there is less than one (1) year full time work remaining in the research project at the time of application, the applicant must be refused, cf. § 5-3.

§ 5-2. Infrastructure

The PhD student is entitled to the necessary infrastructure to complete his/her research project. The University decides what is considered necessary infrastructure. For PhD students with external funding or work place, an agreement must be made between the institution and the external part concerning the research project. As a rule, such agreement must be made at the time of, or immediately following, the PhD student's admission.

§ 5-3. Admissions decision

An admissions decision is based on a total assessment of the application. For announced recruitment positions, ranking criteria between qualified applicants may be determined.

The decision must specify: the appointment of at least one supervisor, allocation of responsibility for handling other requirements specified in the application, the start and completion date of the agreement. Any extension of the agreement period must relate to the employee's rights or be clarified according to the PhD-student's funding scheme.

Admission shall be refused if:

- a) Agreements with an external third party prevent publication and public defence of the dissertation.
- b) Agreements of Intellectual Property Rights are so unreasonable that the University should not participate in the project.
- c) The applicant is unable to comply with the requirement that at least one year of the project must be implemented after he/she is admitted to the PhD Programme, cf. § 5-1.

§ 5-4. Duration of agreement

The nominal length of the PhD Programme is three (3) years of full time studies. The University may decide provisions of maximum implementation time in addition to authorised leave of absences and required duties.

In the events of authorised interruptions, the duration of the agreement is extended accordingly.

The University may extend the duration of the agreement providing the application is reasonably justified.

If an extension is approved, the University may impose additional conditions.

After the termination of the agreement period, the parties' rights and obligations concerning the PhD agreement expire, thus the PhD student may lose his or her right to obtain supervision, course participation and access to the University's infrastructure. The PhD student may nevertheless apply to submit his/her dissertation for assessment of the PhD Degree.

§ 5-5. Termination before the agreed date

Voluntary termination:

An agreement can be made with the PhD student concerning termination before the agreed date. In such cases, there must be a written agreement on the terms of employment, funding, rights of research results etc.

If the voluntary termination is due to the PhD student's wish to change projects or transfer to a different PhD Programme, he/she must apply for new admission on the basis of the new project.

Enforced termination:

The University can decide to terminate a PhD Programme before the agreed date. Decisions to terminate may be made based on one or more of the following conditions:

- Considerable delay in the implementation of the training component.
- Repeated or considerable breaches regarding the demands for the disclosure of information, follow-ups and reports, including non-submission of progress reports, cf. § 9.
- Delay in the progress of the research project of such nature that it creates a reasonable doubt as to the candidate's ability to complete the project within the agreed period of time.

- Enforced termination under these conditions can only be applied if the delays or lack of progress are due to factors over which the PhD student has control.
- The University is responsible for enforced terminations and appeals against the termination will be settled by the University's Appeals Committee.

Terminations due to cheating at examinations or tests during the PhD Programme

Cheating at examinations or tests during the PhD Programme may result in annulment, cf. Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 4-7.

If the incident(s) are of such gravity that they are considered as misconduct, cf. same Act's § 4-13 (1), cf. Act on Ethics and Integrity in Research § 5, second section, the institution can decide to enforce termination of the study agreement.

Decisions on enforced termination due to cheating are made by the University's Appeals Committee.

Decisions by the Appeals Committee can be appealed to the Joint Appeals Committee, cf. Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 5-1 (7) and additional regulation.

Enforced termination due to academic misconduct

If a PhD student is guilty of academic misconduct, cf. Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 4-13 (1), cf. Act on Ethics and Integrity in Research § 5, second section, the University can decide to enforce termination.

Decisions on enforced termination due to academic misconduct are made by the University's Appeals Committee.

Appeals against such decisions are settled by the Ministry of Education and Research or a special appeals committee appointed by the Ministry, cf. Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 4-13 (1).

Resignation and dismissal

PhD students can be dismissed from their positions for just and reasonable causes with reference to the University, employer or employee, cf. the Working Environment Act.

§ 6. The PhD agreement

Admission to the University's PhD Programme is formalised by a written agreement between the PhD student, supervisors and the University. The agreement regulates the rights and obligations of the parties during the period of admission and ensures that the PhD student participates in an active research environment on a regular basis. Also, it facilitates that the PhD Programme is completed on schedule. A separate agreement form will be prepared.

PhD students who are funded, employed by or receive other benefits from an external party must make a separate agreement between the PhD student, the University and the external party in order to regulate the working conditions, including time to conduct the PhD project, assets and need for academic equipment.

If the PhD student is affiliated with international institutions, an agreement must be made concerning rights, duties and expectations between the two parties.

Chapter 3. Implementation

§ 7. Supervision

The PhD dissertation must be prepared under individual supervision. The University and the supervisor(s) must ensure that the PhD Student participates in an active research environment.

§ 7-1. Appointment of supervisors

Normally, the PhD student should have two supervisors, one of whom is appointed main supervisor. The main supervisor should be appointed at the time of admission.

The main supervisor has the academic responsibility for the PhD student. If an external main supervisor is appointed, the co-supervisor must be appointed by the University.

Co-supervisors provide academic tutoring and share the academic responsibility for the PhD student with the main supervisor.

Requirements concerning impartiality in the second chapter of the Public Administration Act «Concerning Disqualification» (§ 6 – § 10) apply to supervisors.

Supervisors must have a PhD Degree or equivalent within the discipline and be active researchers. At least one of the appointed supervisors should have previous experience from or training as supervisor for PhD students.

The PhD student and supervisor can ask to have a new supervisor appointed. A supervisor cannot resign before a new supervisor is appointed. Disputes concerning the supervisor's and the PhD student's academic rights and obligations can be brought before the University for discussion and decision.

§ 7-2. The content of the supervision

The PhD student and the supervisor should stay in close touch. The main supervisor is responsible for following up on the PhD student's academic development. The frequency of the contact should be specified in the annual progress report, cf § 9.

The main supervisor is required to stay informed concerning the progress of the PhD student's work and evaluate the progress according to the schedule in the project description, cf. § 5-1.

The main supervisor is required to monitor academic conditions that can lead to a delay of the research project, so that the PhD programme can be completed within the nominal length of study.

The supervisors should give advice on the formulation and delimitation of subject and problems, discuss and evaluate hypotheses and methods, discuss results and their interpretations, discuss the plans and the implementation of the presentation, including outline, linguistics, documentation etc., and provide assistance in finding academic literature and basic data in libraries, archives etc. The supervisors should also give the PhD student guidance concerning questions of research ethics associated with the dissertation.

§ 8. The training component

§ 8-1. Objective, content and scope

The PhD Programme should be organised in such a way that it is possible to complete within a nominal length of study. The duration of agreement can be extended due to leave of absence caused by the PhD student's employee rights, cf. § 8-2.

VID Specialized University must ensure that the training component, in addition to the dissertation project provide education of high academic and international standards, with implementation of scientific work, experience in academic communication and grounding in research ethics, philosophy of science and the scientific method. In addition to research, the training component should lead to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as specified in the National Qualification Framework.

The University offers the PhD student guidance concerning future careers both in and outside of academia; including the awareness of the competencies that the PhD student has acquired through his/her research.

If the University does not administer the entire training component, conditions must be facilitated so that the PhD student receives equivalent training at other institutions.

The training component must comprise minimum 30 ECTS, of which at least 20 ECTS must be taken after admission. Elements included in the training component, should not be older than two (2) years at the time of admission.

The University determines the content of the training component. The training component must be implemented and approved before the dissertation can be submitted. Applications for changes in the approved plan for the training component must be prepared in consultation with the main supervisor.

Exemption from participation in parts of the training component can be granted if the equivalent requirements are fulfilled at a different department or another approved educational institution.

Courses on a doctoral level at a different institution must be approved in accordance with the regulations in the Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 3-5, first section.

§ 8-2. The PhD students' rights concerning leave of absence

PhD students who have parental leave of absence, can nevertheless attend instructions and take course examinations included in parts of the PhD student's training component during the leave of absence, according to the National Insurance Act, chapter 14, § 14-10, fourth section and the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration's directive concerning § 14-10, fourth section of 18. December 2006 [R14-00-2-F15], last changed on 1. June 2015.

§ 9. Reporting and mid-term evaluation

§ 9-1. Reporting

The University's quality assurance system includes measures to reveal lack of progression during the dissertation and the training component, deficiencies in the supervision and routines to follow up other shortages in the PhD Programme. The PhD student and the supervisor must submit a report at least once a year.

The PhD student and the supervisor are equally responsible for reporting. Deficient and/or missing progress reports may result in enforced termination of the PhD Programme before the period of admission expires, cf. § 5-5. Supervisors who fail to follow up on the reporting duty are at risk of losing their supervising responsibilities.

Upon demand, the University can require special reporting.

§ 9-2. Mid-term evaluation

A mid-term evaluation of the PhD project should normally take place in the third or fourth semester, or somewhat later for part time projects. The PhD student must present his/her project and receive an evaluation from a group of minimum two members appointed by the University. The evaluation group considers the academic status and progress of the PhD student and must submit feedback to the PhD student, the supervisor and the University.

Mid-term evaluation is mandatory in the PhD programme and is included as the basis for applying for assessment of the dissertation for public defence. Thus, the mid-term evaluation is governed by §§ 4-7, 4-8 (3) and 4-13 (3) in the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges and § 5-5 in the regulations concerning the PhD Degree at VID Specialized University.

If the evaluation group reports considerable weaknesses in the research project, corrective measures must be taken.

§ 10. The PhD dissertation

§ 10-1. Requirements

The dissertation must be an independent, academic project of international standards concerning ethical requirements, academic level and method within the discipline.

The dissertation must contribute to the development of new academic knowledge on such a level that it can be published in a suitable format as part of the discipline's research-based knowledge development.

The dissertation can be made up of a monograph or a compilation of several minor projects. If the dissertation comprises several minor projects, the correlation must be made clear.

The University decides whether a dissertation produced by a joint group can be submitted for assessment if the individual contributions can be identified.

If the dissertation or parts of it have been produced in collaboration with other authors or partners, the PhD student must follow the generally accepted academic norms for co-authorship in accordance with international standards. If the dissertation mainly consists of articles, the PhD student should normally be the primary author of at least half of the articles.

Dissertations consisting of projects with several authors or partners must include a signed statement describing the PhD student's contribution in each project.

The University decides which languages are allowed in a dissertation.

§ 10-2. Projects that are not approved

Projects or parts of a project that have been approved as a basis for previous examinations or degrees cannot be submitted for assessment unless the project is included in a minor part of a dissertation consisting of several correlated projects. However, data, analyses or methods from previous degrees are allowed as a basis for the PhD project.

If published articles are used, they cannot be approved as part of the dissertation if they were published more than five (5) years prior to the date of admission. The University can make exemptions from this requirement under extraordinary circumstances.

The dissertation can only be submitted for assessment at one educational institution, cf. § 13-1.

§ 11. Obligation to report results with potential of commercial exploitation

Regulations of rights between cooperating institutions must be specified in an agreement.

PhD students who are employed at an institution are bound to adhere to the obligations of the current legislation with regard to reporting results that indicate commercial potential.

PhD students with an external employer must incorporate equal obligations in an agreement between the institution, the PhD student and the external employer.

PhD students without an employer must incorporate equal obligations in the admissions agreement between the PhD student and the University.

Parts of the dissertation and other academic work resulting from the dissertation of which the PhD student owns the intellectual property rights, may be copied free of charge by the University for use in research and development. PhD students who are not employed by VID Specialized University must make an agreement on similar use. The PhD student must be credited by name according to current legislation and normal practice.

Chapter 4. Completion

§ 12. Assessment

§ 12-1. Basis for assessment

The PhD Degree is awarded on the basis of:

- a) An approved academic dissertation
- b) An approved implementation of the introductory part, or other approved academic education or competence.
- c) An approved trial lecture on a specified subject
- d) An approved public defence of the dissertation (disputation).

§ 12-2. Elapsed time between submission and disputation

The University should strive to make the time between submission and disputation as short as possible and normally no more than five (5) months.

The main supervisor is responsible for informing of an imminent submission, in order for necessary preparations to be started.

§ 13.Submission

§ 13-1. Submission of the dissertation

The training component must be approved before the application of dissertation assessment can be filed to the University.

The following must be attached to the application:

- a) The dissertation in approved format, in the determined format (paper or digital) and in the adequate amount of copies, normally four (4).
- b) Documentation of completed training component.

- c) Documentation of necessary permissions, cf. § 5-1.
- d) Statement of co-authorship where needed, according to § 10-1.
- e) Statement of whether the dissertation is submitted for assessment for the first or second time.
- f) Statement verifying that the dissertation has not been submitted for assessment at another institution.

Dissertation assessment applications can be refused if it is evident that the dissertation lacks academic quality and is deemed not to be approved by a committee.

The dissertation must be available to the public at least two weeks before the disputation, cf. § 18-2.

§ 13-2. Application process

The University processes the dissertation assessment applications. Applications that do not meet the requirements of § 13-1 will be refused.

§ 14. Appointment of the assessment committee

When the dissertation assessment application is approved, the University appoints an expert committee of at least three members who will assess the dissertation and the disputation. Requirements concerning impartiality in § 6 of the Public Administration Act apply to the members of the committee.

The composition of the committee should normally be ready at the time of submission.

The assessment committee should normally confirm to the following:

- a) Both genders are represented
- b) At least two members have no affiliation with VID Specialized University
- c) At least one of the members has no major position at a Norwegian institution
- d) All the members have a PhD Degree or equivalent
- e) The majority of the committee are external members.

If these criteria are not met, the reason(s) for deviation must be explained.

The University determines the appointment procedure. The composition of the committee must be reasoned and indicate how it covers the discipline of the dissertation. A leader is appointed from, or in addition to the members of the committee.

Appointed supervisors or others who have contributed to the dissertation, cannot be members of or administrate the assessment committee.

When required, the University can appoint a reserve member to the assessment committee.

The PhD student must be informed about the proposed composition of the committee and is entitled to submit written comments, no later than one week after he/she has been informed.

§ 15. The assessment committee's work

§ 15-1. Collection of additional information

The assessment committee is entitled to demand access to the PhD student's basic material and additional or clarifying supplementary information.

The assessment committee can ask the supervisor to give an account of the supervision and the dissertation progress.

§ 15-2. Revising of submitted dissertation

Based on the submitted dissertation and any additional material, cf. § 15-1, the assessment committee can recommend a minor revision of the dissertation before the final assessment. The committee must provide a written outline of the suggested revision.

If a minor revision of the dissertation is permitted, the new deadline should normally not exceed three (3) months. The new deadline must be determined with reference to the committee's final recommendation. The new deadline is final.

If the committee finds that extensive changes concerning theory, hypothesis, material or method are necessary before the work can be recommended for disputation, the committee must disallow the dissertation.

§ 15-3. The assessment committee's recommendation

The assessment committee recommends whether the work is worthy of defence for the PhD Degree. The recommendation and any dissent must be fully explained.

The assessment committee's recommendation should normally be available no later than three (3) months after the committee has received the dissertation. If the committee allows revision of the dissertation, a new deadline is scheduled from the time of re-submission.

The assessment committee's recommendation is sent to the University, who will inform the PhD student. The PhD student is given a ten (10) working-day deadline to submit written comments to the recommendation. If the PhD student does not wish to submit any comments, the University must be informed in writing immediately.

The PhD student's comments must be sent to the University where the decision is made in accordance with § 16.

§ 15-4. Correcting procedural errors in the dissertation

A submitted project cannot be withdrawn until a final decision is made concerning worthiness of defence for the PhD Degree.

After submitting, the PhD student can apply for permission to correct procedural errors in the dissertation. The application must include a complete outline of the errors to be corrected. Applications for correcting procedural errors must be filed no later than four (4) weeks before the committee's recommendation deadline and can only occur once.

§ 16. Processing the assessment committee's recommendation

Based on the assessment committee's recommendation, the University decides whether the PhD dissertation is worthy of public defence.

Unanimously recommendation

If the committee's recommendation is unanimous and the University supports this decision, a decision is made in accordance with the unanimous recommendation.

If the University has reasons to doubt that the committee's unanimous recommendation should be taken into account, the assessment committee must provide a clarification and/or the University must appoint two new experts to give individual comments about the dissertation. Such additional- or individual comments must be given to the PhD student, who has the right to review and respond to the comments.

The University will make a decision based on the recommendation and the additional comments.

Divided recommendation

If the committee submits a divided recommendation and the University supports the majority's comments, the decision is made in accordance with the majority's recommendation. If the committee submits a divided recommendation and the University supports the minority's comments, further clarification can be sought from the assessment committee and/or two new experts are appointed who can provide individual comments about the dissertation. Such additional- or individual comments must be given to the PhD student who has the right to review and respond to the comments. If the two new experts support the original majority's recommendation, this recommendation becomes valid.

After the comments from the two new experts have been reviewed and assessed, the PhD student must be informed of the result

§ 17. New submission

A PhD dissertation which is not worthy of defence, cannot be re- assessed earlier than six (6) months after the institution's original decision. A new assessment can only occur once.

In the event of a new submission, the PhD student must advise that the project has previously been assessed and not been found worthy of defence.

§ 18. Publication of the dissertation

§ 18-1. Requirements for the printed dissertation

When the dissertation has been found worthy of defence, the PhD student must submit the dissertation to the University in the approved format and the number of copies required. The PhD student must submit a short, digital résumé of the dissertation in English and Norwegian. If the dissertation is written in a different language than Norwegian or English, a résumé must also be submitted in the language of the dissertation. The résumé will also be published.

§ 18-2. Publication

The dissertation must be publically available no later than two (2) weeks before the public defence. The dissertation must be available in the same format as submitted for assessment, or after revision based on the committee's preliminary comments, cf. § 15-2.

No restrictions can be applied regarding the publication of a PhD dissertation, unless there is a previous agreed upon delay of the publishing date. The external party cannot refuse the publication of the dissertation or parts of it, cf. § 5-3.

The PhD student must follow current guidelines for crediting institutions upon publication of the dissertation. As a rule, an institution that has provided an essential contribution or basis for an author's contribution to the published work must be credited. Similarly, the author must also give credit to other institutions if they meet the contribution requirements.

§ 19. Disputation

§ 19-1. Trial lecture

After the dissertation has been submitted for assessment, cf. § 15, the PhD student must give a trial lecture. The trial lecture is an independent part of the PhD examination and must be related to a specified subject. This is to test the PhD student's ability to gain knowledge beyond the subject of the dissertation and to apply this knowledge in a lecture.

Prøveforelesningen er en selvstendig del av doktorgradsprøven og skal være over oppgitt emne.

The title of the trial lecture will be given to the PhD student ten (10) days before the lecture. The subject of the lecture should be related to, but go beyond the theme of the dissertation.

If the University chooses to arrange the trial lecture in connection with the disputation, the assessment committee decides the subject of the trial lecture and conducts the assessment. If the two tests are assessed separately, the University appoints a committee which decides a subject for the trial lecture. At least one of the members in the assessment committee must be appointed to the lecture committee.

The trial lecture is given in the language of the dissertation, unless the University approves a different language.

The University decides whether the trial lecture is passed or failed. A justification must be given if the trial lecture is recommended as failed.

The trial lecture must be passed before the disputation can be arranged.

§ 19-2. Public defence of the dissertation

The public defence of the dissertation must take place after the trial lecture has been given and approved and within two (2) months after the institution has found the dissertation to be worthy of defence.

The time and place of the public defence must be announced at least ten (10) days in advance.

The same committee that has assessed the dissertation, will also assess the public defence. The public defence will be held in the same language as the dissertation, unless the University approves a different language.

Normally, there are two opponents who must be members of the assessment committee and appointed by the University. Opponents who are not members of the committee can be appointed under special circumstances.

The disputation is led by the Rector or someone authorised by the Rector. The leader of the disputation gives a brief account of submission and assessment of the dissertation. Afterwards, the PhD candidate accounts for the purpose and results of the academic investigation.

The primary opponent initiates the opposition. The second opponent concludes the opposition.

A different allocation of tasks can be arranged between the opponents and between the PhD candidate and the primary opponent. After the primary opponent has completed his/her opposition, the audience have the opportunity to comment ex auditoro. The second opponent concludes the opposition and the leader of the disputation concludes the disputation. The assessment committee makes a recommendation with an account of how the dissertation defence is assessed.

The recommendation must conclude by stating whether the disputation has been approved or not approved. If the disputation is not approved, the reasons for the decision must be fully explained.

§ 20. Disputation approval

Based on the assessment committee's recommendation, the University decides upon approval of the disputation.

If the trial lecture is not approved, a new trial lecture must be given. The new trial lecture must be given over a new subject and no later than six (6) months after the first attempt. A new trial lecture can only be given once. If possible, the lecture will be assessed by the same committee as the original, unless otherwise decided.

If the public defence is not approved, the PhD student can defend his/her dissertation once more. A new disputation cannot be arranged until six (6) months after the first one and if possible it should be assessed by the same committee as the original.

§ 21. Conferring and diploma

Based on the report that the introductory part, the dissertation and the disputation have been approved, the PhD Degree is conferred upon the candidate by the University board and a diploma is issued. The diploma must provide information about the academic training in which the PhD student has participated. The University may decide that further information should be included on the diploma.

§ 22. Diploma Supplement

Additional attachments to the PhD diploma must be issued according to current guidelines for Diploma Supplements.

Chapter 5. Appeals

§ 23. Appeals

§ 23-1. Decisions for admission refusal, decisions of enforced termination due to delay or lack of progress and decisions on refusal for approval of elements during the training component can be appealed against according to the regulations in the Public Administration Act § 28. A reasoned appeal can be filed to the University. If the decision is upheld, the appeal is filed to the University's Appeals Committee.

§ 23-2. Appeals against examinations during the training component

Decisions on examinations that are taken during the training component can be appealed against according to Act 1. April 2005 no. 15 concerning Universities and University colleges, § 5-3 «Appeals regarding grades awarded - right to explanation» and § 5-2 «Appeals against procedural errors in connection with examinations».

Suspicion of cheating or attempts at cheating are regulated by the Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges, § 4-7 «Annulment of examinations or tests».

§ 23-3. Appeals against refusal of assessment application, not approved dissertation, trial lecture or disputation

Decisions on dissertation assessment applications, not approved dissertations, trial lectures or disputations can be appealed against according to the regulations in the Public Administration Act § 28. Reasoned appeals should be filed to the University. If the decision is sustained, the appeal is forwarded to the University's Appeals Committee. If the University finds it justifiable, they can appoint individuals or a committee to evaluate the judgment and its criteria, or to make a new or additional expert assessment.

§ 23-4. Appeals against decisions concerning enforced termination due to academic misconduct

Appeals against a decision in the University's Appeals Committee concerning enforced termination of the PhD Programme due to academic misconduct will be settled by the Ministry of Education and Research or a special appeals body appointed by the ministry, cf. Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges § 4-13 (1).

Chapter 6. Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements

§ 24. Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements

§ 24-1. Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements

The University can cooperate with one or several Norwegian or international institutions concerning cooperation on joint degrees and cotutelle agreements.

Exceptions from the other provisions in this regulation can be made in the event of agreements concerning joint degrees and cotutelle, if required by regulations at the cooperating institutions. Such exceptions must, both separately and collectively, appear justifiable.

§ 24-2. Joint degrees

A joint degree implies cooperation between several institutions, where there is a joint responsibility for admission, supervision, awarding of degrees and other specifications in this regulation. The cooperation is usually organised in a consortium and is regulated by an agreement between the parties. The joint degree can be documented through: a) a diploma issued by all the members of the consortium, b) a diploma from each of the members of the consortium, or a combination of a) and b).

Normally, joint degrees should only be arranged where stable, academic cooperation already exists between the institution and at least one of the other members of the consortium. The University Board determines further guidelines for the joint degree cooperation, including a template for cooperation agreement cf. first section.

§ 24-3. Cotutelle agreements

Cotutelle is an agreement on joint supervision and education on the doctoral degree level. A cotutelle agreement must always be entered into on the individual level and should be based on a stable, academic cooperation between institutions.

§ 24-4. Requirements concerning joint degrees and cotutelle agreements

There can be no deviation from the admission qualification requirements, requirements concerning public availability of the dissertation and requirements of a public disputation with an impartial assessment committee.

Chapter 7. Guidelines, additional provisions and commencement

§ 25. Guidelines and additional provisions

The Rector can determine guidelines and additional provisions within the framework of these regulations.

§ 26. Commencement

This regulation takes effect on 1 January 2016. From the same date, the following regulations expire:

Regulation of 27 August 2011 no. 1547 concerning the PhD Degree at Diakonhjemmet University College.

Regulation of 25 April 2014 no. 953 concerning the PhD Degree at MHS – School of Mission and Theology.