



# LOVDATA

## Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences

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Statutory basis [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§3-4](#), [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§11-6](#), [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§11-7](#), [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§13-1](#), [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§13-2](#), [LOV-2024-03-08-9-§17-3](#)

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**Statutory basis:** Established by the Board of Directors at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences on 11 March 2025 pursuant to sections 3-4, 11-6, 11-7, 13-1, 13-2, 17-3 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges (University and University Colleges Act) of 8 March 2024 No.9.

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### Overview of sections:

Section 1. Introductory provisions (§§ 1-1 - 1-5)

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Section 2. Admissions (§§ 2-1 - 2-5)

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Section 3. The PhD agreement (§§ 3-1 - 3-7)

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Section 4. Implementation (§§ 4-1 - 4-11)

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Section 5. Submission and assessment of the thesis (§§ 5-1 - 5-11)

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Chapter 6. The PhD examination, conferment and diploma (§§ 6-1 - 6-6)

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Chapter 7. Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements (§§ 7-1 - 7-2)

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Section 8. Appeals and entry into force (§§ 8-1 - 8-4)

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## Section 1. Introductory provisions

## Section 1-1. *Applicability of the regulations*

These regulations apply to all education at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences culminating in the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD). The Regulations provide rules on admission to, implementation and completion of doctoral education, including joint degrees and cotutelle agreements.

Integrated PhD education, also known as the research option, is a specially designed course of study where students begin at the master's level and continue into a PhD programme that leads to a doctoral degree at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences. The specific provisions for this course of study are stipulated in separate guidelines on integrated PhD education.

Regulation No. 3309 of 12 December 2024 related to admission, studies, degrees and examinations at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences applies to examinations in the training component of the PhD programmes, insofar as it is not in violation of this PhD regulation. The School of Doctoral Studies is responsible for following up the candidates during the training component, in accordance with the stipulated guidelines and procedure descriptions.

For other provisions governing matters related to the doctoral degree, reference is made to the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges (University and University College Act) (2024), Norwegian qualifications framework for lifelong learning (NKR, 2011), regulations associated with the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges (University and University College Regulations) (2024), Regulations related to degrees and vocational training, protected titles and nominal length of study at universities and university colleges (2005), The Ministry of Education and Research's Regulations concerning quality assurance and quality development in higher education and tertiary vocational education (2010), NOKUT's Regulations on the Supervision and Control of the Quality in Norwegian Higher Education (2017), The act concerning the organization of work on ethics and integrity in research (Research Ethics Act) (2017) and European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (2005).

## Section 1-2. *Terminology*

The degree philosophiae doctor is hereinafter referred to as doctoral degree or PhD.

The term doctoral work is used to refer to the results of the work that the candidate does during the agreed period from start to completion, not including the training component.

The term academic thesis or thesis refers to the results of the academic doctoral work cf. Section 4-9.

## Section 1-3. *The scope, content and objectives of the PhD education*

The objective of the PhD education is to qualify candidates to conduct research of a high international standard and perform other types of work in society requiring a high level of academic insight and expertise, in accordance with good academic practice and established standards on academic and research ethics. The PhD education will provide candidates with knowledge, skills and expertise in accordance with the Norwegian Qualifications Framework. Internationalisation must be facilitated throughout the PhD candidate's course of study.

The doctoral education has a normal duration of three (3) years of full-time study and includes a training component with a minimum scope of 30 credits.

The most important component of the PhD education is an independent research project carried out under active academic supervision.

- A PhD is awarded on the basis of
- an approved academic thesis cf. Section 4-9.
  - approved completion of the training component

- an approved trial lecture on an assigned topic
- an approved public defence of the academic thesis.

### **Section 1-4. Responsibility for PhD education**

The Board of Directors at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences is primarily responsible for PhD education. The education is organised in programmes of study managed by the School of Doctoral Studies (SDS).

### **Section 1-5. Quality assurance**

PhD education is covered by Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' quality assurance system. The university's common standard for doctoral education shall form the basis for quality assurance.

## **Section 2. Admission**

### **Section 2-1. Admission requirements**

To qualify for admission to a PhD programme, applicants must normally have a master's degree (see the descriptions in the Norwegian Qualifications Framework). After special assessment, the University may approve other equivalent education as part of the basis for admission. A Norwegian experience-based master's degree (90 credits) alone does not constitute sufficient grounds for admission.

Additional qualification requirements may be imposed based on criteria that are publicly available and in accordance with the recruitment policy and academic profile of Kristiania University of Applied Sciences, as well as the announcement for PhD positions.

Applicants must have a strong academic background from their previous studies and have a weighted average grade for the last two years of their master's degree programme or equivalent education equal to a B or higher on Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' grading scale. Applicants without letter grades from their previous studies must have an equally good academic foundation. Applicants with a weaker academic background in terms of grades may be admitted if they can document that they are particularly well-suited to doctoral studies. Such cases shall be assessed in accordance with the University's supplementary guidelines for this regulation.

### **Section 2-2. Applications**

Kristiania University of Applied Sciences determines the content of the application form. It should normally include:

- Documentation of the education on which admission is to be based.
- A project description, including an academic outline of the project and progress plan.
- Documentation of funding.
- Documentation of special needs for academic and material resources.
- Plans for periods to be spent at another institution.
- A plan for academic dissemination.
- Information about any intellectual property restrictions to protect others' rights.
- A plan for the training component.
- Proposed main academic supervisor and co-supervisors, indicating their affiliation with an active academic research community.
- An account of any legal and/or ethical issues raised by the project and how they can be resolved. The application must state whether the project is dependent on permissions from research ethics committees or other authorities or from private individuals (informants, patients, parents, etc.). Such permissions should, if possible, be obtained and attached to the application.

The School of Doctoral Studies may stipulate requirements regarding further documentation.

Applications for admission to a PhD programme must normally be submitted within three (3) months of the start of the research project that will lead to the doctoral degree. If less than one (1) year of full-time work remains on the research project at the time of application, the application will be rejected cf. [Section 2-5](#). There are separate rules for applicants with a background from research options and other equivalent programmes of study.

### **Section 2-3. Residency requirement**

Candidates with external funding or an external workplace must normally spend a total of at least one year of their doctoral education in a relevant academic community at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences. The length of the required residency may be reduced, but the proposed scheme must meet the requirements for academic supervision and high quality in the academic community.

### **Section 2-4. Infrastructure**

The candidate must be given access to the necessary infrastructure to be able to perform their doctoral work.

The Programme Committee decides what constitutes necessary infrastructure for implementation of the project. For candidates with external funding or an external workplace, an agreement is entered into between the University and the external party in connection with the individual project. As a general rule, this kind of agreement must have been entered into before the candidate in question is formally admitted.

### **Section 2-5. Admission decision**

Decisions on admission are made by the Doctoral Degree Committee and are based on an overall assessment of the application.

The Doctoral Degree Committee can set criteria for the ranking of qualified applicants and limit admission if the number of applicants exceeds the capacity.

The formal decision letter must include the appointment of the main academic supervisor and co-supervisors, assignment of responsibilities for dealing with other needs outlined in the application, and specification of the start and completion dates of the agreement period. The start date must be the same as the start date for the funding. Any extension of the agreement period must be related to employees' rights and must be clarified in relation to the candidate's basis for funding.

Admission shall be denied if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Agreements with external third parties hinder the publication and public defense of the doctoral thesis.
- The intellectual property agreements entered into are so unreasonable that the institution ought not to be involved in the project.
- The applicant will not be able to fulfil the requirement that a minimum of one year of the project must normally be carried out after the candidate has been admitted to the PhD programme cf. [Section 2-2](#).

## **Section 3. The PhD agreement**

### **Section 3-1. The parties to the agreement**

Admission to Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' PhD programme is formalised in a written agreement signed by the PhD candidate, the academic supervisors and the University. The agreement governs the parties' rights and obligations during the admission period. It shall ensure that the candidate participates regularly and contributes actively to the academic community and help ensure that the candidate completes their doctoral education within the agreed time frame. Kristiania University of Applied Sciences determines the content of the agreement form.

For PhD candidates with funding from, employment at or other contributions from an external party, a separate agreement must be entered into between the candidate, the institution and the external party, in accordance with stipulated guidelines.

In cases where the PhD candidate is going to be affiliated with an institution outside Norway, Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' guidelines for this kind of collaboration must be followed, and separate agreements must be entered into. These kinds of agreements must normally be appended to the PhD agreement.

### **Section 3-2. Agreement period**

The doctoral education has a nominal duration of three (3) years of full-time study. In the event of interruptions due to compulsory duties or statutory leaves of absence, the agreement period will be extended accordingly.

After the expiry of the agreement period, the parties' rights and obligations pursuant to the PhD agreement cease, such that the PhD candidate may lose their right to academic supervision, participation in courses and access to the institution's infrastructure.

The University may extend the agreement period on the basis of a valid application. If an extension is granted, the University may set additional terms and conditions.

The maximum study period is six (6) years from the start date to submission of the doctoral work for evaluation. Other career-enhancing work and statutory leaves of absence are not included in the six years. If the maximum study period is exceeded, the candidate loses the right to defend their thesis. Candidates may apply to have their doctoral work assessed for a PhD degree after the maximum study period has been exceeded. The Doctoral Degree Committee decides whether to approve the application.

### **Section 3-3. Voluntary premature termination**

The candidate and the University can agree on discontinuation of the doctoral education before the agreed time. In the event of this kind of discontinuation of the doctoral education, it must be specified in writing how issues related to employment, funding, rights to results, etc. are to be resolved.

In the event of voluntary termination because the candidate wishes to change project or transfer to another programme, the candidate must submit a new application for admission based on the new project. Any external funding source must approve the change of project.

### **Section 3-4. Forced termination**

The Doctoral Degree Committee may decide to discontinue a candidate's PhD education before the agreed time (forced termination). Forced termination can be decided if one or more of the following conditions exist:

Significant delay in the completion of the training component due to circumstances within the candidate's control.

The candidate repeatedly commits significant breaches of information, follow-up, or reporting obligations, including the obligation to submit progress reports, cf. [Section 4-7](#).

The progress of the research project is delayed to such an extent that there is doubt about whether the candidate will be able to complete the project within the agreed time. To be valid grounds for forced termination, the delay must be due to circumstances within the candidate's control.

The candidate commits criminal offences in connection with the implementation of the PhD programme or otherwise breaches the trust that must exist between the university and the candidate during the implementation.

### **Section 3-5. Forced termination due to cheating on examinations or tests**

If it is found that a PhD candidate has cheated on examinations or tests during the course of the programme, the institution may decide to annul the examinations or tests cf. Section 12-4 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges. If the matter is so serious that it can be regarded as scientific misconduct, cf. Section 13-2 of the same act and Section 8 (2) of the Research Ethics Act, the institution may decide to impose forced termination cf. Section 3-6 below.

Decisions pursuant to the first sentence are made by Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' Appeals Committee. In the event of decisions made by the Committee for Student Affairs in the first instance, the appeals body shall be the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills' Appeals Board.

### **Section 3-6. Forced termination due to scientific misconduct**

If a candidate is found guilty of scientific misconduct cf. Section 13-2 (1) of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges and Section 8 (2) of the Research Ethics Act, the institution may decide to impose forced termination.

Decisions on forced termination on grounds of scientific misconduct are made by the Doctoral Degree Committee. Appeals against these kinds of decisions are processed by the Ministry or a special appeals committee appointed by the Ministry.

### **Section 3-7. Termination and dismissal**

A candidate's employment as a PhD candidate can be terminated when there are valid grounds in circumstances relating to the undertaking or candidate, cf. Section 15 of the Working Environment Act.

The Doctoral Degree Committee may decide to impose forced termination of admission to specific programmes of study if the candidate has had their contract terminated or been dismissed.

## **Section 4. Implementation**

### **Section 4-1. General information on academic supervision**

The work on the doctoral project must be performed under individual academic supervision. Together, the School of Doctoral Studies, institution, department and supervisors must ensure that the PhD candidate participates in an academic community with active research.

### **Section 4-2. Appointment of academic supervisors**

The School of Doctoral Studies appoints academic supervisors. As a general rule, PhD candidates must have at least two academic supervisors, one of whom must be designated as the main supervisor.

The main academic supervisor has the primary academic responsibility for the candidate. If the Doctoral Degree Committee appoints an external main academic supervisor, a co-supervisor must be appointed who is an academic employee of Kristiania University of Applied Sciences.

Co-supervisors are experts in the field who provide guidance and who share the academic responsibility for the candidate with the main academic supervisor.

The impartiality rules in the Public Administration Act, Chapter II, §§ 6–10 apply to all supervisors.

All academic supervisors must have a PhD or equivalent qualification in the relevant field and be active in their field. At least one of the appointed academic supervisors must have previous experience of supervision of PhD candidates, normally until completion of the PhD.

In addition, the School of Doctoral Studies may appoint one or more supporting academic supervisors who do not meet the formal qualification requirements for academic supervisors, but who have specific competencies that are essential for the execution of the project. Competencies and relevance must be specified in the application for appointment.

The PhD candidate and academic supervisor may ask the School of Doctoral Studies to appoint another academic supervisor for the candidate. The academic supervisor cannot step down before a new supervisor has been appointed. Any disputes regarding the academic rights and obligations of the academic supervisor and the candidate can be reported by either party to the University for review and decision.

### **Section 4-3. Content of the academic supervision**

Academic supervisors shall advise candidates on the formulation and definition of topics and research questions, discuss and assess methods and results, discuss arrangements, implementation, forms of documentation and presentation, and advise the candidate in the relevant academic discourse. The candidate must receive academic supervision in academic and research ethics issues related to the doctoral work.

The candidate and the academic supervisors must have regular contact. How frequently the candidate has been in contact with the academic supervisor must be stated in the annual progress report, cf. [Section 4-7](#).

The candidate and the academic supervisors have a mutual obligation to keep each other informed about the progress of the work and to assess it in relation to the project description.

The academic supervisors have a duty to follow up on academic issues that may result in a delay in the doctoral education such that it can be completed within the standard time frame.

### **Section 4-4. The training component**

The doctoral education shall be set up such that it can be completed within the standard time frame.

The Programme Committee is responsible for ensuring that the training component, together with the project, provides education at a high academic level in accordance with international standards. The training component must include training in academic dissemination and an introduction to academic and research ethics, the philosophy of science and methodology. Together with the doctoral work, the training component must contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes in accordance with the Norwegian Qualifications Framework.

The training component must correspond to at least 30 credits, of which at least 20 credits must generally be completed after admission. At least 20 credits must comprise courses at PhD level specified in the programme description. In order for a master's degree course to be included in the training component, the candidate must achieve a grade equal to a B or higher on Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' grading scale. In addition, the academic supervisor must assess the academic level of the course, as well as formulate a description of the need to use the master's course.

Elements that are to be included in the training component may not have been completed more than two (2) years prior to the date of admission. Exemptions may be granted if there are valid special academic grounds. Special rules apply to PhD candidates with a background from research options.

The University determines which elements can and must be included in the training component, the documentation requirements, and the criteria for achieving a pass grade in examinations.

Courses at doctoral level at another institution must be approved if they meet the academic requirements for the training component, in accordance with the rules in [Section 9-1 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges](#).

Preparation of the career plan and follow-up of this is carried out in accordance with [Section 3-19 \(4\) of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges](#).

Language training is carried out in accordance with [Section 3-19 \(5\) of the Act relating to Universities and](#)

## University Colleges.

### **Section 4-5. Affiliation with an academic community**

The candidate is required to contribute to the institution's academic community, for example through academic activities such as seminars, workshops and dissemination tasks. The institution and the academic supervisor must systematically follow up these kinds of activities so that the candidate's contact with the academic community is planned and realised.

### **Section 4-6. Right to training during leaves of absence**

PhD candidates who have parental leave from the PhD education may follow teaching and sit examinations in subjects and courses that are to be included as part of the candidate's training component during their period of leave.

Candidates with an external employer are required to ensure that the University is informed about any leaves of absence, the scope of career-enhancing work, and other factors relevant to the progress of their doctoral work.

### **Section 4-7. Annual reporting**

During the agreement period, the PhD candidate must report to the University each year, describing their progress in the doctoral education. The academic supervisors must report to the University on the candidate's progress each year. The reports must be submitted using the prescribed forms and will be treated as confidential when warranted by the information therein.

The candidate and the academic supervisor have equal responsibility for reporting. Failure to submit a progress report or inadequate progress reporting from the candidate may result in forced termination of the research education before the end of the agreement period cf. [Section 3-4](#). Academic supervisors who fail to follow up on the reporting requirements may be relieved of their supervision responsibilities.

If necessary, the University may require special reporting.

### **Section 4-8. Compulsory seminars**

As part of the quality assurance of the doctoral studies, the candidate must conduct two seminars.

After one year, the candidate presents their work in a work-in-progress seminar and receives feedback from an internally appointed opponent. After two years, a midway evaluation is conducted, where a group of at least two people, including at least one external member, assesses the academic status and progress of the work.

Feedback from the evaluations is provided to the candidate, the academic supervisor, and the institution. Guidelines and processes are determined by the School of Doctoral Studies. In the event of significant weaknesses, necessary measures must be implemented.

### **Section 4-9. Requirements for academic theses**

An academic thesis must be an independent piece of research work or research and development work that meets international standards in terms of ethical requirements, academic level and methodology in the field of study.

The thesis must contribute to the development of new academic knowledge and must be at a level that merits publication or presentation to the public in an appropriate format as part of the research-based development of knowledge in the field of study.

The thesis can consist of a monograph or a compendium of several smaller works. If the thesis consists of several smaller works, an account must be provided of how they are related.

An academic thesis may also consist of a written component in combination with a permanently documented product or production. In these kinds of cases, the works must collectively meet the requirements for an independent piece of research work for the PhD degree in accordance with international standards in the field of study. The University may set additional requirements regarding the proportionate share made up by the product or production in terms of scope or content.

The thesis can be submitted in English, Norwegian or another Scandinavian language.

#### **Section 4-10. *Joint work***

Doctoral work jointly produced by several people can be submitted for evaluation provided it is possible to identify the individual contributions.

For works that have been created in collaboration with several partners or co-authors, the PhD candidate must follow the norms for crediting contributions that are generally accepted in the academic community, in accordance with international standards.

If an academic thesis consists mainly of articles, the candidate must normally be the lead author of at least two of the articles.

Doctoral work including contributions from other people must be accompanied by a signed declaration describing the candidate's input in each piece of work. Both the PhD candidate and the other contributors must sign the declaration.

#### **Section 4-11. *Obligation to report research results with commercial potential***

The intellectual property rights of the collaborating institutions must be regulated in a separate agreement. PhD candidates employed at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences must report research results with commercial potential that are produced during the employment relationship in accordance with the University's applicable regulations.

For PhD candidates with an external employer, a corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in an agreement between the institution, the PhD candidate and the external employer.

For PhD candidates without an employer, a corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in the PhD agreement.

## **Section 5. Submission and assessment of the doctoral thesis**

### **Section 5-1. *Basis for assessment***

The requirements for awarding a PhD are stipulated in [Section 1-3](#).

A candidate applies for assessment by submitting an academic thesis cf. [Section 5-2](#).

The main academic supervisor is responsible for notifying the responsible unit that submission or an application for assessment is imminent, so that the necessary preparations can be made.

### **Section 5-2. *Application for assessment of an academic thesis***

An application for assessment of a thesis may only be submitted after the training component has been

approved. The following documents must be submitted with the application:

- The academic thesis in accordance with the University's provisions, in the form and the number of copies stipulated by the University.
- Documentation of the necessary permissions cf. Section 2-2.
- Declarations from co-authors where required cf. Section 4-10.
- A declaration specifying whether the thesis is being submitted for assessment for the first time or the second time.
- A declaration specifying that the thesis has not been submitted for assessment at another institution.
- A statement from the main academic supervisor.

### **Section 5-3. Processing applications for assessment**

The University processes the application to have an academic thesis assessed. Applications that do not fulfil the requirements defined in Section 5-2 will be rejected. The institution can, on an independent basis, reject an application for assessment of doctoral work if it is obvious that the work is not of a high enough standard and will be rejected by a committee.

### **Section 5-4. Appointment of an assessment committee**

Once the institution has approved an application for assessment of an academic thesis, it must appoint an expert committee consisting of at least three members who will assess the thesis, the examination on an assigned topic and the public defence. The impartiality rules stipulated in the Public Administration Act apply to the committee members.

The assessment committee must normally be composed such that:

- both sexes are represented
- at least one of its members is not affiliated with Kristiania University of Applied Sciences
- at least one of the members does not have their main position at a Norwegian institution
- all members have a PhD or equivalent qualifications in the field of study
- the majority of the assessment committee are external members
- if possible, one of the members is from a relevant foreign institution

If these

criteria are deviated from, an explanation must be provided stating the grounds

for this.

The institution or department submits a proposal regarding nominations for the assessment committee. This proposal must include an explanation of the reasoning behind the composition of the committee in terms of how it collectively covers the field of the doctoral work. The University appoints an administrator from among the committee members or in addition to the committee members.

Appointed academic supervisors and others who have contributed to the doctoral work may not be members of the assessment committee or involved in its administration.

When required, the University may appoint an alternate to sit on the assessment committee. The candidate must be notified of the proposed composition of the committee and be given the opportunity to submit written comments no later than one week after the proposal has been made known to the candidate.

### **Section 5-5. The work of the assessment committee**

The assessment committee must be made familiar with Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' PhD assessment regulations and guidelines.

## **Section 5-6. Assessment of an academic thesis**

The assessment committee may require presentation of the candidate's source material and additional information to supplement or clarify the doctoral work.

The assessment committee may ask the academic supervisor to provide an account of the academic supervision and work on the project.

On the basis of the submitted thesis and any additional material, the assessment committee may recommend that the institution permit the candidate to make minor revisions before the committee submits its final recommendation. The committee must provide a written list of the specific items that the candidate must rework.

If Kristiania University of Applied Sciences permits minor revisions to the thesis, a deadline normally not exceeding three (3) months must be set. A new deadline for submission of the committee's final report must also be set. The candidate may not appeal the institution's decision pursuant to this subsection.

If the committee finds that extensive changes related to the theory, research questions, material or methodology are necessary before the thesis can be deemed worthy of public defence, the committee must reject the thesis.

## **Section 5-7. The assessment committee's recommendation**

The assessment committee submits a report stating whether the doctoral work is worthy of defence for the PhD degree and explaining the reasoning behind its decision. All parts of the submitted or presented documentation must be discussed in relation to the criteria defined in [Section 4-9](#). The recommendation ought to be discursive and end with a clear conclusion regarding whether or not the work should be approved. Any dissenting opinions or individual statements by committee members must be included in the report, with an explanation of the reasons.

The assessment committee submits its recommendation to the University.

The committee's recommendation must be ready no later than three (3) months after the committee received all the parts of the doctoral work for assessment. If the committee permits minor revisions to an academic thesis, a new deadline runs from the date the work is re-submitted.

The committee's recommendation is submitted to the University, which then presents it to the candidate. The candidate is given ten (10) working days within which to make written comments on the recommendation. If the candidate does not wish to make any comments, the University should be informed of this in writing at the first opportunity.

Any comments from the candidate should be sent to the institution. The institution makes the final decision on the matter cf. [Section 5-9](#).

## **Section 5-8. Correction of formal errors**

A doctoral work that has been submitted or presented may not be modified or withdrawn until a final decision has been made on whether it is worthy of defence for the PhD degree.

However, the candidate may correct formal errors after submission or presentation of the work. The candidate must attach a complete list of errata that have been corrected. Correction of formal errors must be made before publication. Correction of formal errors in the thesis text are permitted, and a complete list (errata) must be included at the end of the final thesis.

## **Section 5-9. Processing of the assessment committee's recommendation**

Based on the assessment committee's recommendation, the institution decides whether the doctoral work is

worthy of defence.

#### *Unanimous recommendation*

If the committee's submits a unanimous recommendation and the University adopts the committee's recommendation as the basis for its assessment, the institution will make a decision in accordance with the unanimous recommendation.

If the institution finds that there are valid grounds to doubt whether the committee's unanimous recommendation should be used as the basis for its decision, the institution must request further clarification from the committee and, if necessary, appoint two new experts to make individual assessments of the doctoral work. These types of additional statements or individual assessments must be presented to the candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments.

The institution makes the final decision in the case based on the committee's recommendation and the statements obtained.

#### Non-unanimous recommendation

If the committee submits a non-unanimous recommendation and the University chooses to adopt the majority's opinion as the basis for its assessment, the institution will make a decision in accordance with the majority's recommendation. If the committee submits a non-unanimous recommendation and the University chooses to adopt the minority's opinion as the basis for its decision, the institution may request further clarification from the committee and, if necessary, appoint two new experts to make individual assessments of the doctoral work. These kinds of additional statements or individual evaluations must be presented to the candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments. If both of the new experts concur with the majority of the assessment committee in the original recommendation, the committee's recommendation must be followed.

The candidate will be informed of the outcome after the statements from new experts have been processed.

### **Section 5-10. Application for resubmission**

A doctoral work that has been found not worthy of defence can be resubmitted for assessment in a revised form no earlier than six (6) months after the University has made its decision. The institution then appoints a new assessment committee, including at least one of the members of the original committee. A doctoral work can only be resubmitted for assessment once.

The final deadline for submitting an application for resubmission is two (2) years after the institution decided not to approve the original results.

A candidate who submits a new application for assessment must state that the work has previously been assessed and was found not worthy of defence cf. Section 5-2.

### **Section 5-11 Publication and accessibility requirements**

The academic thesis must be published. There are special requirements concerning the publication of academic theses.

The candidate must submit a brief written summary or presentation of the thesis in English and Norwegian. This presentation must be made public.

The academic thesis must be publicly available no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the public defence. The thesis must be made available in the form in which it was submitted for assessment, with any revisions made on the basis of the committee's preliminary comments cf. Section 5-6.

No restrictions may be placed on the publication of the doctoral work, except in the event of a prior

agreement concerning a delay in the date of publication. The purpose of this kind of delay is to enable the institution and any external party that has fully or partially funded the candidate's doctoral education to consider possible patenting, etc. The external party cannot require that all or parts of the thesis be withheld from publication, cf. [Section 2-5](#).

In connection with publication or public presentation, candidates must follow the applicable guidelines on the crediting of institutions. The general rule is that an institution should be credited if it has provided a necessary and substantial contribution to or foundation for the published work. Other institutions should also be credited if, in each individual case, they meet the contribution requirement.

## Section 6. PhD examination, conferment and diploma

### Section 6-1. *Trial lecture on an assigned topic*

After the academic thesis has been submitted for assessment, the candidate must hold a trial lecture on an assigned topic. This is an independent part of the PhD examination. The objective is to test the candidate's ability to acquire knowledge outside their area of specialisation and their ability to convey this knowledge in a lecture situation or other relevant form of dissemination.

The assessment committee sets the assignment and undertakes the assessment. The PhD candidate is to be notified of the title of the examination ten (10) working days before it is due to take place. The topic must not be directly related to the topic of the doctoral work.

The assessment committee determines whether the candidate passes the examination on the assigned topic or not. If the candidate is assessed as failing the examination, the assessment committee must give grounds for its decision.

The examination on an assigned topic must be passed before the public defence can be held.

### Section 6-2. *Public defence*

The public defence of the doctoral work must normally take place within two (2) months of the University finding the work worthy of defence.

The time and location of the public defence must be announced at least ten (10) working days before it is due to be held.

The committee that originally assessed the doctoral work also assesses the public defence.

The public defence takes place in English or Norwegian unless the University approves another language.

There must normally be two opponents. The two opponents must be members of the assessment committee and are appointed by the institution.

The public defence is chaired by the dean or another person authorised by the institution. The chair of the public defence gives a presentation of the submission and assessment of the doctoral work and the result of the examination on an assigned topic cf. [Section 6-1](#). The PhD candidate then provides an account of the purpose and findings of the doctoral work.

The assessment committee makes a recommendation to the institution, in which it provides an account of its assessment of the defence of the doctoral work. In its recommendation, the assessment committee assesses the level of the doctoral work in relation to international standards in the field of study, culminating in a conclusion stating whether the public defence ought to be approved or not.

### **Section 6-3. Approval of the doctoral examination**

The University makes the final decision on approval of the doctoral examination based on the assessment committee's recommendation.

If the committee does not approve the result of the trial lecture or the examination on the assigned topic cf. Section 6-1, a new examination must be held on a new topic, no later than six (6) months after the first attempt. A new examination on an assigned topic may only be held once. As far as possible, the new examination must be assessed by the same committee that assessed the original examination, unless the University decides otherwise.

If the institution does not approve the public defence, the candidate may defend the doctoral work one more time. A new public defence can be held after six (6) months at the earliest and, as far as possible, must be assessed by the same committee that assessed the original public defence.

### **Section 6-4. Conferral of the degree**

Based on the University's decision that the training component and all parts of the doctoral examination have been approved, the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD) will be conferred on the candidate.

### **Section 6-5. Diploma**

PhD diplomas are issued by the University. The diploma contains information about the academic training the candidate has participated in, the title of the thesis, the examination on an assigned topic, and the academic supervisors. The diploma is signed by the Rector.

In addition to the diploma, the doctor will receive a PhD diploma signed by the Rector.

### **Section 6-6. Diploma supplement**

Kristiania University of Applied Sciences will issue a PhD diploma supplement in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

## **Section 7. Joint degrees and cotutelle agreements**

### **Section 7-1. Opportunity to enter into joint degree and cotutelle agreements**

Kristiania University of Applied Sciences may enter into an agreement with one or more Norwegian or foreign institutions regarding collaboration in the form of joint degrees or cotutelle agreements.

Agreements for joint degree collaboration and cotutelle arrangements may stipulate exemption from other provisions in these regulations, if this is necessary due to the collaborating institutions. These kinds of exemptions, both individually and collectively, must be justifiable.

The term 'joint degree' is defined as a collaboration between two or more institutions, in which the partner institutions are jointly responsible for admission, academic supervision, the conferral of the degree and other elements described in these regulations. The collaboration is normally organised in a consortium and is regulated in an agreement between the members of the consortium. For a completed joint degree, a joint diploma is issued in the form of: a) a diploma issued by all the consortium members, b) a diploma issued by each of the consortium members, or a combination of a) and b).

An agreement to issue a joint degree is normally only entered into if there is already an established, stable academic collaboration between the institution and at least one of the other consortium members.

The term 'cotutelle agreement' is defined as the joint academic supervision of PhD candidates and

collaboration on the training of PhD candidates. A cotutelle agreement must be entered into for each individual candidate and must be based on stable, academic collaboration between the institutions.

## **Section 7-2. Requirements in connection with joint degrees and cotutelle agreements**

In connection with agreements on joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements, the Rector or person authorised by the Rector may grant exemption from these regulations, if this is necessary due to the regulations of the collaborating institutions. These kinds of exemptions, both individually and collectively, must be justifiable in respect of the requirements concerning academic quality that apply to equivalent PhD degrees at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences. The provisions concerning the qualifications required for admission, the requirement that the PhD thesis must be made available to the public, and the requirement for a public defence assessed by an impartial assessment committee may not be waived.

As a minimum, agreements on joint degrees and cotutelle arrangements must regulate admission, funding, the training component, academic supervision, requirements concerning residency at the institutions, reporting requirements, the language and structure of the thesis, assessment of doctoral work, conferral of the degree, the diploma, and the intellectual property rights to the results. The agreement must be signed by the Rector or a person authorised by the Rector.

The PhD education at the collaborating institution must also have a scope of three years of full-time study.

The candidate must be admitted to both institutions.

## **Section 8. Appeals and entry into force**

### **Section 8-1. Appeal against rejection of an application for admission, a decision to terminate admission, or rejection of an application for approval of part of the training component**

Rejection of an application for admission, a decision to terminate admission, or rejection of an application for approval of part of the training component may be appealed pursuant to provisions in Section 28 specifically and following sections of the Public Administration Act. The appeal, including a description of the grounds for the appeal, must be sent to the University. If the decision is upheld, the appeal must be sent to the Central Appeals Committee at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences for final decision.

### **Section 8-2. Appeals against results or procedural errors in the training component examination**

Examinations taken during the training component can be appealed pursuant to sections 11-9 and 11-10 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges .

Suspected cheating or an attempt to cheat will be processed in accordance with Kristiania University of Applied Sciences' established routines for this.

### **Section 8-3. Appeals against rejection of an application for assessment, rejection of a PhD thesis, trial lecture or other examination on an assigned topic, or public defence**

Rejection of an application for assessment of doctoral work and a decision not to approve doctoral work, a compulsory examination or public defence may be appealed pursuant to the provisions in Section 28 specifically and following sections of the Public Administration Act.

The appeal, including a description of the grounds for the appeal, must be sent to the Doctoral Degree Committee. The Doctoral Degree Committee may revoke or amend the decision if it finds the appeal justified. If Doctoral Degree Committee does not uphold the appeal, the appeal is sent to Kristiania

University of Applied Sciences' Central Appeals Committee for a final decision. The body processing the appeal can investigate all aspects of an appealed decision.

If the University or the body processing the appeal deems it necessary, individuals or a committee may be appointed to undertake an evaluation of the assessment and the criteria on which it was based, or to undertake a new or supplementary expert assessment.

#### **Section 8-4. *Entry into force***

These regulations shall enter into force on 17 March 2025. At the same time, the Regulation of 23 October 2020 No. 3389 for the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD) at Kristiania University of Applied Sciences – Ernst G. Mortensen Foundation is repealed.