



## Supplementary provisions to NMBU's regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) for the Faculty of Biosciences (BIOVIT)

Adopted by the Dean 09.06.2020. Pursuant to NMBU's Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) adopted on 30.01.2020 (in force 01.07.2020)<sup>1</sup>.

There are two PhD programmes at BIOVIT: Plant Sciences and Animal and Aquacultural Sciences. The provisions apply to both programmes. The section numbers referred to below equal the numbering used in the NMBU PhD Regulations.

### **Section 3      Responsibility for the PhD programme**

#### *(2) The faculty*

The Dean's daily responsibility for the PhD education is maintained by the research committee (BIOVIT-FU).

#### *(3) Programme council*

The research committee is the appointed programme council for the two PhD programmes.

The research section leaders have each, possibly in cooperation with other research section leaders, a responsibility for the academic content of the relevant study option(s).

### **Section 5      Admission**

#### *Section 5-1 General provisions*

#### *(2) Criteria for ranking between qualified applicants*

Applicants that meet the admission requirements of the regulation's Section 5-2 must be ranked at discretion, based on a collective assessment of:

- a) the documented educational background; relevance and grades
- b) the job interview and references; research talent, professional maturity, motivation and ability to work.

#### *(3) Duty of residency*

PhD candidates who have

- a) an external employer outside of the NMBU Campus<sup>2</sup>
- b) field work outside of the NMBU Campus or in other countries

must normally have residency in the main supervisor's academic environment, or other relevant academic environment at NMBU, of a time that totals at least one year of the PhD education. The FU can approve exceptions from these provisions.

#### *Section 5-2 Admission requirements – education and English language requirements*

#### *(1) Education equivalent to a five years Norwegian higher education*

An applicant for a scholarship position who does not meet the requirement of a master's degree of a minimum of 120 credits (ECTS)<sup>3</sup>, may if the topic of the master's degree is highly relevant, still be

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<sup>1</sup> Minor amendments to the PhD Regulations, adopted by the NMBU Board on 17 September 2020 (in force 1 October 2020), does not affect the BIOVIT supplementary provisions.

<sup>2</sup> NIBIO and Nofima are considered to be part of the NMBU Campus.

<sup>3</sup> E.g. graduates from universities in the UK and other countries, where the master's degree corresponds to 90 credits.



employed on the condition that any lack of masters' s level credits is completed at NMBU before the person applies for admission to the PhD education.

### *(2) Strong academic background*

The requirement to have a strong academic background from previous education must be covered thus:

- the grades from higher degree examinations (120 credits) must normally be in the top half of the applicant's student population. This must be documented as a distribution of grades, ranking number among master students or as a statement from the graduating institution.
- applicants with grades A or B for a science master's thesis of relevance at a Norwegian university or higher education institution, or with grades on a equivalent level from other countries, will normally qualify for admission to a PhD programme at the faculty.
- the applicant must have completed a statistics course as part of the bachelor's- and/ or master's degree.

## **Section 7 Academic supervision**

### *Section 7-2 Appointment of supervisors*

- (1) The main supervisor and PhD candidate both have responsibility to make use of the competences within the supervisory team.
- (2) Main supervisors for the PhD candidates will be appointed among the faculty's Associate Professors and Professors (incl. II positions). Those with permanent employment in research positions, who hold qualifications required for appointment as a 'førsteamanuensis', may also be appointed as main supervisors.

### *Section 7-3 The content and scope of supervision*

- (3) The PhD candidates is entitled to approx. 100 hours of supervision per year for three years, meaning a total of 300 hours, distributed over the supervisory team.

## **Section 8 The required coursework component**

### *Section 8-2 The scope and content of the required coursework*

- (1) The required coursework must equal 35 credits including a research ethics and philosophy of science course at a minimum of 5 credits. The candidate may in agreement with the main supervisor choose to include more credits.

As a main rule a statistics course must be part of the required coursework. or documented strong statistics skills at admission, seen in relation to the PhD candidate's subject area.

Unless the PhD candidate has documented strong statistics skills at admission, seen in relation to the PhD candidate's subject area, a statistics course must as a main rule be part of the required coursework.

- (2) Within the total of 35 credits, the required coursework may include at the most 5 credits of general skills as project management, research dissemination or pedagogy. Academic writing courses are not approved as 'counting credits' in the required coursework.



## **Section 9      Quality assurance measures**

### *Section 9-2 (2) Midway assessment*

BIOVIT has developed guidelines for completion of the midway assessment (<https://www.nmbu.no/fakultet/biovit/studenter/node/20322>).

## **Section 10     The thesis**

(3) BIOVIT has developed guidelines for the introductory chapter (the 'kappe') of the PhD thesis (<https://www.nmbu.no/fakultet/biovit/studenter/node/20322>).