



## Supplementary rules to NMBU's Regulations for the degree of Philosophia Doctor (PhD) for the Faculty of Landscape and Society (LANDSAM)

Adopted by the Dean 30.06.2020. Pursuant to NMBU's Regulations for the degree of  
Philosophia Doctor (PhD) adopted 30.01.2020. In force 01.07.2020.

LANDSAM has two PhD programmes – Society, Development and Planning, and International  
Environment and Development Studies. These regulations are valid for both programmes.  
Paragraph numbers refer to those used in NMBU's Regulations.

### **Section 5 Admission**

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

The faculty normally admits an annual cohort of PhD candidates who attend the compulsory  
courses for the relevant programmes together.

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

The candidate must have a strong academic background, with a B or above as the average  
grade of the Master's degree. The grade of the master's thesis should also be B or above; only  
under exceptional circumstances a C for the master's thesis can be accepted.

The minimum requirement for English proficiency is one of the language tests mentioned  
under Section 5-2 (3)b. Applicants can be individually assessed if the faculty finds it necessary  
based on the documentation presented by the applicant.

#### *Section 5-3 Admission requirements – funding for applicants not employed at the faculty*

The faculty only admits PhD applicants who have institutional support from an employer/  
institution. (See Faculty guidelines)

### **Section 6 PhD contract**

#### *Section 6-2 Contract period*

The contract period is normally set to three years without work duties at the Faculty.

### **Section 7 Supervision**

#### *Section 7-1 Right to supervision and affiliation to an academic environment*

A PhD candidate will be allocated a total of 300 hours dedicated to supervision, which is shared  
among the supervisory team; that is, approximately 100 hours per year over three years.

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

(2) PhD candidates who are employed at NMBU should, if possible, have co-supervisor(s) who  
are part of the permanent academic staff at LANDSAM or another faculty at NMBU.



If it is deemed necessary in order to ensure good quality, an external co-supervisor may be considered. Such a co-supervisor arrangement must be based on a written agreement between the co-supervisor's employer and the faculty (see Faculty guidelines).

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

(3) In the early stages of the project the form "What do I expect from my candidate/supervisor" should be completed by the candidate and the supervisor(s), followed by a joint discussion of mutual expectations.

### **Section 8 Required coursework**

#### *Section 8-2 Required coursework – content and scope*

(1) The coursework component required by the Faculty is minimum 30 ECTS.

(3) The 30 ECTS minimum course credits must include a set of mandatory courses at PhD level, which are further specified in the individual programme descriptions.

The mandatory courses must include research ethics and the philosophy of science. These topics can be covered in separate courses, with the topics totalling minimum 5 ECTS.

#### *Section 8-3 Approval of the required coursework*

(2) For a master course to be approved as part of the academic component, a level corresponding to the grade B or higher is required, according to the NMBU grading system.

### **Section 9 Quality assurance measures**

#### *Section 9-1 Measures to uncover and follow up deficiencies, progress reporting*

(2) PhD candidates should submit their annual progress report to the programme coordinator by 15 January each year.

#### *Section 9-2 Compulsory seminars*

(1) For each seminar, one or two discussants/opponents/evaluators are assigned to provide comments and advice on the work presented, and to give a brief assessment of the work plan and progress of the candidate.

At the respective seminars the candidate is expected to present the following:

*Introductory seminar:* The proposed research.

*Midway assessment seminar:* During the seminar, the candidate should present one or two draft papers or chapters and an outline of the thesis as a whole.

*Final seminar:* The candidate is expected to present an Introductory Essay to the thesis or a central part of the monograph / the material to be submitted for the PhD.

Each seminar should be followed up by a meeting between the candidate and the supervisor(s). The programme leader can be involved if necessary.

### **Section 10 The thesis**

#### *Section 10-1 Thesis requirements*

(3) An article-based thesis should include three (or more) scholarly manuscripts and/or articles.



If the thesis is written within a field of research with established traditions of single-authored publications, at least one of the manuscripts/articles should be single-authored by the candidate. The articles should be either publishable in or submitted to peer-reviewed journals at level 1 or level 2 in the Norwegian catalogue of publication channels (see link below).

LANDSAM has developed Guidelines for the introductory chapter of the thesis, which is expected to have the form of an Introductory Essay (see link below).

#### *(4) Requirements for Research-by-design PhDs*

- The submitted material must be a visible contribution to new knowledge, insight and experience for the field.
- The submission must consist of a minimum of three pieces – manuscripts/articles, design/artistic works, or other documented development work, which holds international standards regarding creative level and ethics within the field.
- The results of design or artistic development work must be accompanied by a substantial verbal reflection in English or a Scandinavian language.

(5) The candidate should be the first author of three works; if more than three manuscripts/articles are included in the thesis, the PhD candidate can have a less active role in a subset of articles.

### **Section 13 Appointment of the evaluation committee**

(4) Scholars who have served as external discussants at Midway or Final seminars should not be appointed as opponents and members of the evaluation committee for the PhD defence. Exceptions can be approved by the Dean if other scholars with relevant competence in a specific field are not available for the defence.

### **Section 15 The Faculty's consideration of the evaluation committee's recommendation**

#### *Section 15-2 Unanimous negative recommendation or split recommendation*

(3) If the Faculty has appointed new experts to submit statements about the thesis, and the new experts do not agree with the majority recommendation, the Faculty makes a decision based on an assessment of the different recommendations.

#### ***Links to related documents:***

[Rules and guidelines for PhD studies at LANDSAM Guidelines for the Introductory Essay](#)

[Guidelines for the assessment of the thesis](#)

[Ph.d. forskrift NMBU / PhD regulations NMBU](#)

[Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers](#)