

Guide to writing a project description for applicants to the PhD programme in Artistic Research at the Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design, University of Bergen

The project description must be a maximum of 3000 words. The form is determined by the applicant, but the description should account for the following key points:

- Background for the project
- Contextualisation: The project's subject area
- Questions and issues
- Methods and/or artistic processes
- Expected results and professional contributions
- Need for academic and material resources
- Ethical considerations
- Partners

There must be consistency between the project description and the attached budget and progress plan. This means that the activities in the progress plan and the costs in the budget should reflect the plans in the project description.

- **Background for the project**

This section should be relatively short and give the reader an introduction to the thematic background of the project. This may include a presentation of the topic and main issues, an account of the applicant's motivation (e.g. artistic, social, political, philosophical) to work on the proposed project and why the applicant believes there is a need for the development of artistic expression, knowledge, skills or competence in the area.

- **Contextualization: The project's subject area**

It is important that the applicant is able to account for the subject area of the project. What other artists or art communities have worked with similar expressions and/or issues before? Which artists or art environments are important references for the applicant? It is usually an advantage to demonstrate broad knowledge of the subject area while at the same time trying to be specific about where the project places itself in this field. If the project relates to several disciplines or subject areas, these should be explained, while at the same time indicating which is the applicant's primary field of expertise. Which field(s) is the project relevant for?

- **Questions/issues**

The project description should contain a limited number of questions or issues that the project will address. These should be clearly relevant to the subject area as defined by the applicant. At the same time, they must be focused and limit the artistic research to a manageable area that it is realistic that the project can contribute to. Good questions are usually easy to understand, but rarely have simple answers like "yes" or "no."

- **Methods and/or artistic processes**

The project description should account for how the applicant plans to work to address or answer the questions/issues. The methods or processes do not need to be described

in terms of established methodological terms but should give the reader an understanding of how the artistic research will generally proceed.

- **Expected results and professional contributions**

The PhD project must lead to a publicly available artistic result and material that documents artistic reflection. The PhD result should be at a level that ensures that it can contribute to the development of new knowledge, insight and experience within the subject area. Although it is not possible to say exactly what the artistic research will lead to, the applicant should account for the planned outcome and how it will contribute to the field described during the contextualization. Planned formats for the presentation of artistic results and reflections should be relevant to the questions/issues and planned methods/processes. Presentation formats should be reflected in the budget and progress plan.

- **Need for academic and material resources**

All PhD candidates are assigned a work room or studio and standard IT equipment. If the project requires special material resources, this must be accounted for and reflected in the budget. The same applies to academic resources: If the project requires expertise that does not exist at KMD, this must be accounted for, including a plan for how such expertise is to be obtained. This must also be reflected in the budget.

- **Ethical considerations**

The project description should address the ethical aspects of the project. All projects can be discussed from an ethical perspective. Examples of topics that can be highlighted are forms of collaboration, crediting and ownership, inclusion and diversity, vulnerable groups, privacy, climate impact, etc..

- **Partners**

The project description should give an account of key partners, both individuals and institutions, their role in the project, any rights issues, funding or other matters of importance for implementation. If there are costs associated with the collaborations, this must be reflected in the budget.