

## Faculty of Fine Art, Music, and Design, University of Bergen

### Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

(This is an unofficial translation of the Norwegian version of “*Programbeskrivelse for ph.d.-program i kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid ved Fakultet for kunst, musikk og design*” and is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency, the Norwegian version shall prevail. Last revised 27.10.2025)

Approved by the Faculty Board 24.10.2024.

The programme description is regulated by the Regulations for the Degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research at the University of Bergen (referred to as *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* in this programme description).

As a supplement to the programme description, the faculty's specific guidelines and other documents are available at the faculty's [webpage for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### Contents

#### 1 Objectives, Scope, and Qualification

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Learning Outcomes

#### 2 Admission

- 2.1 Admission Requirements
- 2.2 Agreement Period

#### 3 Structure and Content of the Programme

- 3.1 Mandatory Activities and Work Methods
- 3.2 Supervision
- 3.3 Progress Reporting
- 3.4 Midway Evaluation
- 3.5 Final Seminar
- 3.6 Training Component
  - 3.6.1 Interdisciplinary Training Component
  - 3.6.2 Individual Project-specific Training Component

#### 4 Completion

- 4.1 PhD result
- 4.2 Application for Assessment
- 4.3 Submission of the result
- 4.4 Assessment Committee's Work
- 4.5 Errata 4.6 Publication and Archiving

#### 5 Quality Assurance

#### 6 Transitional arrangements

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/kmd/169727/phd-programme-faculty-fine-art-music-and-design>

## 1 Objectives, Scope, and Qualification

### 1.1 General

The name of the programme is *the PhD Programme in Artistic Research at the Faculty of Fine Art, Music, and Design*. Completion of the programme grants the following qualification: Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research.

This PhD education aims to qualify students for artistic research of international standards and for other positions in society that require a high level of artistic insight and competence, in accordance with good academic practice and ethical standards.

The PhD education will provide candidates with knowledge, skills, and competencies in line with the requirements of the Norwegian Qualification Framework for PhD (3rd cycle).

The PhD education is built upon a master's degree in performing or creative arts, equivalent to the 2nd cycle in the Norwegian Qualification Framework, or equivalent level of competence.

PhD education is normed to three (3) years of full-time study and includes an independent project and a training component of a minimum of 30 credits.

### 1.2 Description of Learning Outcomes

The requirements for learning outcomes for the entire programme follow the requirements in the Regulations on the Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and the reference to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning of 2017, level 8. These requirements constitute a coherent whole and must be considered in relation to each other.

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>General Competance</i>
<p>The candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>masters the fundamental theory of artistic development work</li><li>is in the forefront of knowledge in their field and masters the field's theory, artistic issues, and methods</li><li>can assess the appropriateness and application of different methods and processes in artistic research</li><li>can contribute to the development of new knowledge, theories, methods, interpretations, and forms of documentation within the field.</li></ul>	<p>The candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>can formulate research questions, plan, and carry out artistic research</li><li>can engage in artistic research at a high international level</li><li>can handle complex academic questions and challenge established knowledge and practices in the field</li><li>can contribute constructively in interdisciplinary exchange and project development</li></ul>	<p>The candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>can identify relevant ethical issues and conduct their research with professional integrity</li><li>can contribute to complex interdisciplinary tasks and projects</li><li>Can communicate artistic research through recognized national and international channels</li><li>can participate in discussions within the field in national and international forums</li><li>can assess the need for, initiate, and drive innovation</li></ul>

## **2 Admission**

### **2.1 Admission requirements**

Requirements for education or equivalent qualifications are described in UiB's Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research § 5-1.

The application should normally include:

- Documentation of the education and qualifications that form the basis for admission
- Project description, including:
  - Academic description of the project
  - Progress plan
  - Financing plan\*
  - Description of specific needs for academic and material resources
  - Any plans for stays at other institutions
  - Plan for dissemination of results
  - Information on any intellectual property restrictions to protect the rights of others, as outlined in UiB's Regulations for the Degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research § 5-2
- Indication of affiliation with an active artistic research environment at the institution
- Explanation of any legal and ethical issues raised by the project and how they can be clarified. The application should state whether the project requires permission from research ethics committees or other authorities, or from individuals (informants, patients, parents, etc.). Such permission should, if possible, be included with the application.

Residency at the faculty is normally required for candidates employed by the faculty.

\*Applicants without a doctoral position at the Faculty of Fine Art, Music, and Design must provide a plan for satisfactory financing for the entire research education period, including living expenses and research-related operational costs. It is not possible to apply for admission based on self-financing.

### **2.2 Agreement Period**

- The PhD education is normed to three (3) years of full-time study
- For research fellows employed at UiB, the three years will normally be part of a four-year employment contract, with one year of work duty distributed over the years according to further agreement
- The maximum planned study period is six (6) years, cf. § 5-3 in UiB's regulations for the PhD in artistic research. The study period is considered completed upon the public presentation of the artistic result
- After the agreement period expires, the parties' rights and obligations under the PhD agreement cease, which means that the research fellow may lose their right to supervision, course participation, and access to the faculty's infrastructure. However, the candidate can still apply to present the PhD result for assessment
- The faculty can extend the agreement period upon reasoned application. In case of granted extension, the faculty may impose additional conditions

## **3 Structure and Content of the Programme**

### **3.1 Mandatory Activities and Work Methods**

## Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

- The candidate shall, under active supervision, carry out independent artistic research work
- The candidate and the appointed supervisor(s) shall meet regularly for supervision.
- The candidate shall undergo a midway evaluation according to the applicable guidelines.
- The candidate shall conduct a final seminar according to the applicable guidelines.
- The candidate shall complete the mandatory joint academic training component equivalent to 20 ECTS at the National Research School in Artistic Research.
- The candidate shall complete an individual training component equivalent to 10 ECTS.
- The candidate shall publicly present the artistic results of the artistic research in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 10-1 and § 14-2*.
- The candidate shall submit material documenting reflection in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 10-1 and § 14-2*.
- The candidate shall publish the PhD result in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 10-1, § 14-2, and § 14-3*, as well as section 4.3 of the Programme Description (this document).
- The candidate shall give a public defence of the PhD result in the form of a disputation in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 15*.

The candidate must be present at the institution and be affiliated with a research group, a research project, or an identifiable academic community with regular activities.

Engaging in dialogue with peers locally, nationally, and internationally is an important part of project development.

### 3.2 Supervision

Requirements for the supervisors' competence are described in *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 6-2*. The content of the supervision is described in *§ 6-3*.

- The candidate shall, as a general rule, have two supervisors, a main supervisor and a co-supervisor.
- The faculty itself may appoint additional co-supervisors. If additional co-supervisors are appointed, their working hours should normally be covered within a total supervision resource of 300 hours for the entire study period.
- Co-supervisors are professionals who share the academic responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor.
- The main supervisor should normally be employed at the Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design.
- The faculty itself may appoint a main supervisor who is not employed at the faculty. In such cases, the co-supervisor must be employed at the faculty.
- The main supervisor is obliged to maintain regular and at least semi-annual contact with the co-supervisor(s) regarding the candidate's academic development.
- [UiB's Ethical Guidelines for the relationship between supervisor and student or candidate at the University of Bergen](https://regler.app.uib.no/regler_en/Part-2-Research-Education-Dissemination/2.2-Education/2.2.5.-Kvalitetssikring-akkreditering-grader-med-videre/Ethical-guidelines-for-relations-between-supervisors-and-students-or-candidates-at-the-University-of-Bergen/)<sup>2</sup> shall form the basis for the supervision relationship.
- The candidate and supervisor(s) shall have regular contact. The frequency of contact shall be stated in the annual progress report.
- Supervision normally takes place individually. Joint supervision with both/all supervisors or group supervision with several candidates and supervisors together can also be conducted.

<sup>2</sup> [https://regler.app.uib.no/regler\\_en/Part-2-Research-Education-Dissemination/2.2-Education/2.2.5.-Kvalitetssikring-akkreditering-grader-med-videre/Ethical-guidelines-for-relations-between-supervisors-and-students-or-candidates-at-the-University-of-Bergen/](https://regler.app.uib.no/regler_en/Part-2-Research-Education-Dissemination/2.2-Education/2.2.5.-Kvalitetssikring-akkreditering-grader-med-videre/Ethical-guidelines-for-relations-between-supervisors-and-students-or-candidates-at-the-University-of-Bergen/)

## **Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research**

- The candidate and the main supervisor shall, as soon as possible and no later than three (3) months after admission, review the project description and budget together and assess any need for adjustments, as well as submit a plan for the training component.
- Significant changes to the project description must be approved by the faculty itself. The revised and dated project description, budget, and plan for the training component shall be sent to the faculty.
- The supervisors shall provide advice on delimiting topics and issues and assess methods and results, including documentation and presentation forms, and contribute to orientation in the current academic discourse.
- The supervisors shall provide the candidate with guidance on ethical issues related to the PhD project.
- The main supervisor is responsible for ensuring that ethical issues are followed up.
- The supervisors shall keep informed about the progress of the candidate's work and assess it in relation to the progress plan of the project description.
- Supervisors shall follow up on academic matters that may lead to delays in the completion of the PhD education, so that it can be completed within the prescribed time.
- For the main supervisor, the supervision agreement normally includes a total of 180 working hours for the entire study period, estimated at 60 working hours per study year, of which at least 20 hours per study year shall be direct contact time between the candidate and the supervisor.
- For the co-supervisor, the agreement normally includes a total of 120 working hours for the entire study period, estimated at 40 working hours per study year, of which at least 15 hours per study year shall be direct contact time between the candidate and the supervisor.
- 10% of the supervisors' working hours shall be allocated to participation in mandatory supervisor training and academic gatherings organized by the Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design or the National Research School in Artistic Research.

### **3.3 Progress Reporting**

- The candidate and the main supervisor should submit separate progress reports each year according to UiB's guidelines for progress reporting.
- The candidate and the main supervisor submit a simplified report if the progress report coincides with the semester for the midway evaluation.
- The Division of Research and Innovation (FIA) facilitates assessment. The responses of the candidates and supervisors will be made available to the management of the faculties and institutes.
- Insufficient or unsatisfactory progress reporting from the candidate may result in forced termination of the PhD education before the expiration of the agreement period.
- Supervisors who fail to follow the reporting obligations may be relieved of their supervisory responsibilities.
- In connection with reporting, the candidate and main supervisor should review the project description and budget and assess the need for adjustments. Significant changes should be approved by the faculty itself.

### **3.4 Midway Evaluation**

- Each candidate should conduct a midway evaluation of their PhD work in accordance with the guidelines of the faculty.
- The midway evaluation should typically take place in the third or fourth semester of a three-year study programme or the fourth or fifth semester of a four-year study programme.
- The main purpose of the midway evaluation is to help the candidate identify factors that may pose a risk of project stagnation or delays and provide input to enhance the quality of the

## Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

work.

- The candidate will present their work and be evaluated by a group of at least two individuals appointed by the faculty. The evaluation group will assess academic status and progress and provide feedback to the candidate, supervisor, and faculty.
- If the evaluation group reports significant weaknesses in the PhD work, measures will be taken to address the situation.

### 3.5 Final Seminar

- Each candidate should conduct a final seminar in accordance with the guidelines of the faculty.
- The final seminar typically takes place three (3) months before the application for assessment.
- The candidate will present a plan for the public disclosure of the artistic result and a draft of the reflection.
- The main purpose of the final seminar is to assess whether the preliminary results, plan for public presentation of the artistic result, and draft of the reflection material are at a level where the department can recommend an application for assessment, and provide input to enhance the quality of the work.
- The committee typically consists of three members: the department head/research leader, the main supervisor, and another academic staff member from the research group, project, or environment to which the candidate is affiliated. The committee is chaired by the department head or research leader.
- If the committee identifies significant weaknesses in the project, the committee chair will call for a follow-up meeting with the main supervisor and candidate within two months and before the candidate applies for final assessment.

### 3.6 Training component

- The training component in the PhD programme in artistic research consists of two components:
  - Interdisciplinary training component (20 credits)
  - Individual project-specific training courses (10 credits)
- Both components are typically taken after admission to the programme and must be completed and approved before the reflection is submitted.

Course	Credits per academic year		
	First year	Second year	Third year
Interdisciplinary training component	20		
Individual project-specific training component	10		-

#### 3.6.1 Interdisciplinary training component

- The interdisciplinary training component (20 ECTS) is organized through the Norwegian Artistic Research School as an offering to all candidates in Norwegian PhD programme in artistic research.
- The interdisciplinary training component is compulsory for all candidates in this PhD programme.
- The purpose, learning outcomes, and activities are described in the Research School's Description of Training Offer and in annually revised course plans.
- The faculty assesses the course as pass/fail based on reported participation from the Norwegian Artistic Research School.

### 3.6.2 Individual project-specific training component

- The individual training component is project-specific and aims to enhance the PhD candidate's competence to carry out their own project.
- The training component will typically consist of several components, such as subject-specific courses, necessary technical training, study trips, participation with presentations at relevant conferences, courses or modules at the faculty or other faculties at UiB, courses from the Grieg Research School, or other institutions.
- A plan for the individual training component should be developed in consultation with the supervisor, as soon as possible and no later than three (3) months after admission to the PhD programme. The plan must be approved by the faculty. The plan should specify when each component should be completed and the volume it represents. Any changes to the plan must be approved by the faculty.
- The faculty approves the course as completed when the PhD candidate has completed and documented participation in the planned activities. Participation must be confirmed in writing by course leaders or other individuals responsible.

## 4 Completion

### 4.1 PhD Result

- The candidate shall deliver a PhD result in accordance with the requirements of UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 10-1.
- The PhD result shall consist of an artistic result and material that documents reflection.
- Artistic practice shall be at the center of the PhD result.
- There can be overlap between the artistic result and the material that documents reflection.
- The PhD result shall document creative, novel, and coherent artistic practice at a high level that is transferable within the relevant field.
- The artistic result may consist of documentation of artistic practice and/or one or more artworks.
- If the artistic result consists of several parts, the candidate shall explain the connection between them.
- Through the reflection material, the candidate shall provide insight into:
  - The project's placement in and dialogue with the academic context, nationally and internationally
  - Process and/or applied theories and methods
  - The project's contribution to the field

### 4.2 Application for assessment

- Application for assessment of the artistic PhD result is done by submitting an application.
- The faculty's application form should be used.
- The application should be submitted to the faculty no later than five (5) months before the planned date for the presentation of the artistic results. The common holiday (July) shall be scheduled for the period.
- It is the responsibility of the main supervisor to inform the faculty that the application for assessment is imminent, so that necessary preparations can be made. The main supervisor should normally recommend the application.
- The following should be included as attachments to the application:
  - a) A description of what will form the basis for the assessment, including a concise written summary of the PhD result in the language that will be used in the assessment, and a plan for where, when, and how the artistic result will be publicly presented.

## Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

- b) An explanation of the choice of medium, language, and form for the reflection component, and the deadline for submission, in accordance with the options in 4.3.
- c) A description of how the training component has been or will be fulfilled, or alternatively, a description of other academic training or qualifications.
- d) Documentation of necessary permissions, according to *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 5-2*.
- e) Declarations from collaborating partner(s) were required, according to *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 10-2*.
- f) Plan for documentation and archiving in a permanent format of the entire PhD result, in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 14-2*.
- g) Declaration stating whether the work is being submitted for assessment for the first or second time.
- h) Declaration stating that the work has not been submitted for assessment at another institution.

Attachments a) and b) are forwarded to the assessment committee

### 4.3 Submission of Result

The artistic results should be publicly presented. If the public presentation of the artistic result takes the form of a concert, exhibition, performance, or other time- and place-specific display, the assessment committee should normally be present. There are two options for the submission of materials documenting reflection:

- If the candidate wishes for the committee to have access to the reflection component before the presentation of the artistic result, the candidate should submit the reflection component to the faculty at least two (2) weeks before the public presentation of the artistic result.
- If the candidate wishes for the committee to have access to the reflection component simultaneously with the public presentation of the artistic result, the candidate should submit the reflection component to the faculty at least one day before the public presentation of the artistic result.

### 4.4 Work of the Assessment Committee

The appointment of the committee and the framework for the assessment are described in *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 11-2 – 11.4*.

The committee chair should normally be employed at the faculty and have experience with the PhD programme in Artistic Research as a fellow, supervisor, committee member, programme board member, or equivalent experience from comparable PhD programmes.

The assessment committee should be provided with:

- *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research*
- Programme description for the PhD programme in Artistic Research (this document)
- Faculty's template for the assessment committee's report
- Faculty's guidelines for the assessment of the PhD degree
- Candidate's description of what will form the basis for the assessment, including a concise written summary of the PhD result in the language that will be used in the assessment, and a plan for where, when, and how the artistic outcome will be publicly presented
- Candidate's description of the choice of medium, language, and form for the reflection component, and the deadline for submission, in accordance with the options in 4.3



## Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

Before the assessment committee begins its work, the faculty should ensure that the committee is familiar with the objectives and profile of the PhD programme, as well as the responsibilities and tasks of the assessment committee.

The assessment committee evaluates the artistic PhD result as worthy or not worthy of defence for the PhD degree. All parts of the submitted or presented material should be discussed based on the requirements for the PhD result in *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 10-1* and *§ 10-2*. The recommendation should be in a discursive form and conclude with a clear statement of whether the result is worthy of defence for the PhD degree. It is not permissible to recommend minor changes to the PhD result. Any dissenting opinions or individual statements should be included in the recommendation, and they should be justified. The assessment committee's recommendation is addressed to the faculty.

The committee's recommendation should be submitted no later than three (3) months after the committee has received all parts of the PhD result for assessment.

The faculty's handling of the recommendation is described in *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 12*.

The assessment committee shall later provide a recommendation on the approval of the candidate's public defence of the project.

An artistic PhD result that has not been found worthy of defence can be assessed in a revised version. A new assessment can only take place once. The deadline for submitting an application for a new assessment is two (2) years after the faculty has made a decision of non-approval for the first time.

### 4.5 Errata

After submission or presentation, the candidate may apply for permission to correct formal errors, but only in the reflection component, in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 14-1*.

By formal errors, we mean punctuation, spelling, or grammatical errors, errors in references, formatting errors, or minor changes in layout. The content of the text cannot be altered or clarified. The application should include a complete list of the formal errors that need to be corrected. The corrections will not be forwarded to the assessment committee, which evaluates the reflection as it was originally submitted.

The deadline for applying for the correction of formal errors is five (5) working days after the candidate has received the recommendation. The faculty's template for errata application should be used. The list of errata should be attached to the reflection component, which will be available during the defence. Only one application can be submitted. The application will be processed by the faculty within two weeks. Formal errors must be corrected by the public release of the reflection material, at the latest two weeks before the defence.

### 4.6 Public Defence

The candidate shall give a public defence of the PhD result in the form of a disputation, in accordance with the requirements of *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 15*.

All committee members should normally be present throughout the entire disputation. The composition of the committee shall follow *UiB's Regulations for the PhD in Artistic Research § 11-2*.

## Programme Description for the PhD Programme in Artistic Research

The disputation is led by the dean or their designee. The person leading the disputation will explain the submission and assessment of the Ph.D. result. The candidate will then explain the purpose and outcome of the Ph.D. project. The committee members, in consultation with the faculty, will determine the format of the subsequent dialogue with the candidate. At least two committee members shall participate in the dialogue. Other attendees shall be given the opportunity to comment on ex auditorio. The total duration should normally not exceed 3 hours.

### 4.7 Publication and Archiving

The reflection component and any other material involved in the assessment should be publicly accessible at least two (2) weeks before the date of the public defence, in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 14-2*. The material should be made available in the form it was submitted for assessment, possibly with corrections made in accordance with *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research § 14-1* and 4.5 of the Programme Description.

The entire PhD result, consisting of documentation of the artistic result and the material that documents reflection, should be archived and made publicly accessible in a durable format.

The PhD result should generally be published and archived collectively through the faculty's research portal on [researchcatalogue.net](https://researchcatalogue.net) no later than two weeks after the defence. The candidate may apply to the faculty to use other systems for publication and long-term archiving if it serves the dissemination of the PhD result. It is a prerequisite that such systems can be managed by the University of Bergen. Such applications should typically be submitted together with the application for final assessment.

## 5 Quality Assurance

The organization and quality assurance of the programme at the faculty are in accordance with UiB's [Structure, Authority, and Quality Assurance Tasks for PhD Education](#) (in Norwegian), following [the System for Quality Assurance of the PhD Education at UiB](#) (in Norwegian), adopted on November 30, 2017.

The faculty's Committee for Research and Doctoral Education (UFF) is the programme board for the PhD programme in Artistic Research. The Vice Dean for Research serves as the programme board chair

## 6 Transitional arrangements

Candidates who, when this programme description comes into effect, have been admitted to the PhD programme in artistic research under a previous version of the Programme Description for the PhD programme in artistic research, retain the rights from there if this is to their advantage.