

Programme description for PhD programme in artistic research

This English translation is for information only. For all legal purposes the original document in Norwegian is the authoritative version.

Programme description for PhD Programme in Artistic Research Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design, University of Bergen

The programme description is subordinate to *The Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research at the University of Bergen* (hereinafter named in the programme description as *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research*).

As a supplement to the programme description, the faculty's specified descriptions of procedures and other documents are compiled under <https://www.uib.no/kmd/111557/veiledere-og-stipendiater-i-kunstnerisk-utviklingsarbeid>.

The programme description is valid from 27.09.2018, when the board of the University of Bergen decided to establish this PhD programme.
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1 Objectives, scope and qualification

1.1 Overall

The name of the programme is *The PhD Programme in Artistic Research at the University of Bergen*, The completed programme gives the following qualification: Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in Artistic Research.

This PhD education is intended to qualify for artistic research of an international standard, and for other work in society where great demands are made to artistic insight and competence, in accordance with good academic practice and ethical standards.

The PhD education will provide the candidate with knowledge, skills and competence in line with the The Norwegian Qualifications Framework requirements for PhD (3rd cycle).

The PhD education is based on a master's degree in the performing or creative arts, corresponding to the 2nd cycle in The Norwegian Qualifications Framework, or equivalent level of competence.

The PhD education is prescribed as three (3) years of full-time studies, and includes an independent project and required training comprising a minimum of 30 credits.

1.2 Description of learning outcomes

The requirements to learning outcomes of the entire programme follow the requirements of *The Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning* and with reference to the *European Qualifications Framework*, level 8. These requirements form an entity and must be seen in context.

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>General competence</i>
<p>The candidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in the forefront of knowledge within his/her field and masters artistic issues and methods • can evaluate the expediency and application of different methods and processes in artistic research projects • can contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the field 	<p>The candidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can formulate problems, plan and carry out artistic research • can carry out artistic research work of a high international standard • can handle complex issues and challenge established knowledge and practice in the field 	<p>The candidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can identify new relevant ethical issues and carry out his/her research with scholarly integrity • can manage complex interdisciplinary assignments and projects • can communicate research and development work through recognized Norwegian and international channels • can participate in debates in the field in international forums • can assess the need for, initiate and practice innovation

2 Admission

2.1 Conditions for admission – the application

The requirements to education or equivalent competence are described in *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* Section 5-1.

The application must include:

- Documentation of the education and qualifications that should form the basis of the admission.
- Project description that includes
 - description of the project
 - progress plan
 - funding plan
 - documentation of special needs for academic and material resources
 - any plans for residence at another institution
 - plan for dissemination of results
 - information on any intellectual property rights restrictions to protect the rights of others, cf. *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* Section 5-2
- Plan for the training component, including training aimed at general competence in accordance with the qualifications framework.
- Proposal of at least one supervisor, as well as specification of association with the institution's active environment for artistic research.
- Description of any legal and ethical issues that the project raises, and how these can be clarified. The application should state whether the project is dependent on permission from research ethics committees or other authorities, or from private persons (informants, patients, parents etc.). If possible, such permissions should be attached to the application.

2.2 Agreement Period

The PhD education is prescribed as three (3) years of full-time studies.

For PhD candidates employed at UiB, the three years will normally be included in a four-year appointment, with one year's work to be distributed over the years by further agreement.

Maximum period of the planned study programme is six (6) years.

Following the expiry of the agreement period, the rights and obligations of the parties under the PhD candidate agreement no longer apply, so that the PhD candidate can lose his entitlement to supervision, course participation and access to KMDs infrastructure. However, the candidate may still apply for his PhD project to be presented for assessment. The maximum time for the completion of the PhD project, excluding statutory leave, is eight (8) years from the starting date. The faculty may extend the agreement period following a justified application. The faculty may set further conditions for a granted extension.

3 Structure and content of the programme

3.1 Working methods

The PhD education's most important component is an independent work of artistic research conducted under active supervision. Considerable motivation and ability to own progress are expected of the candidate. The work includes exploration through a self-defined project, as well as examination of the context and use of relevant theory.

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Supervision takes place individually or occasionally as joint supervision with both supervisors. There may also be group supervision with several PhD candidates and supervisors on several projects.

Compulsory participation in the national research school is based to a great extent on the participants' own active role in a cross-artistic context. Here it is expected that presentations should be prepared that provide the basis for feedback from other participants, as well as constructive and critical contributions from PhD candidates to others' projects.

The candidate will contribute to the faculty's academic environment, for example through academic activities such as seminars, workshops and dissemination tasks. This is planned and followed up in consultation with the supervisor and faculty. For candidates employed at UiB, a plan for required duties is scheduled as soon as possible after the start of the programme, and thereafter annually.

Dialogue with colleagues, nationally and internationally, is an important element of the project development.

The faculty will normally stipulate residency requirements.

3.2 Supervision

The requirements to supervisors' competence are described in *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* Section 6-1.

As a rule, the candidate should have two supervisors, one of whom is designated as the main supervisor. The main supervisor should be appointed at the time of admission.

Supervisors should give advice on the limitation of topics and issues and discuss methods and outcomes, including documentation and presentation methods, and contribute to orientation in topical academic discourse. The candidate should receive guidance on ethical issues related to the PhD work.

UiB's Ethical guidelines for relations between supervisors and students or candidates at the University of Bergen provides guidance for the supervisor's and the candidate's forms of cooperation.¹

The main supervisor is responsible for following up on the candidate's academic development and implementation in accordance with the progress plan. Normally, the main supervisor should be employed at the faculty. Should the faculty, in exceptional cases, appoint an external main supervisor, a co-supervisor from the faculty should be appointed.

The co-supervisors are academic staff or independent professionals who share the academic responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor.

The candidate and supervisors should have regular contact. Contact frequency should be stated in the annual progress reporting.

¹ 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

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As soon as possible, and no later than three (3) months after admission, the candidate and main supervisor shall together review the project description, budget and plan for the training component and consider any need for adjustments. Significant changes to the project description should be approved by the faculty.

The supervisors are obliged to keep informed of the progress of the candidate's work and review this in relation to the project description's progress plan.

The supervisors are obliged to follow up on academic conditions that may incur delayed completion, so that the project can be completed within the standard time.

The supervisor agreement for the main supervisor includes 60 working hours per year during the period, of which at least 20 hours per year should be direct contact time between the candidate and supervisor. Participation in academic gatherings under the auspices of the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme or the Norwegian Artistic Research School may come in addition. The expected scope of, and any remuneration for, gatherings must be specified in the agreement with the supervisor.

The agreement for the co-supervisor includes 40 working hours per year during the period, of which at least 15 hours per year should be direct contact time between the candidate and supervisor. Participation in academic gatherings under the auspices of the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme or the Norwegian Artistic Research School may come in addition.

If the supervisor is not employed by the candidate's employer institution, the work is remunerated depending on the person's competence according to specific rules.

If the employer institution finds it necessary, an agreement can also be entered into for additional supervision to enhance the PhD candidate's competence in specific areas. Other supervisors should be immediately informed of such agreements.

3.3 Progress reporting and mid-way evaluation

Annual and separate reporting is required on the project's progress from the candidate and supervisor, on a form specified by the faculty. The candidate and supervisor have equal responsibility for reporting. Lack of, or deficient, progress reporting from the candidate may incur forced termination prior to the expiry of the agreement period. Supervisors who fail to follow up on the reporting obligation may be deprived of their supervising responsibility.

In connection with the reporting, the candidate and main supervisor shall review the project description and budget, and assess the need for adjustments. Significant changes should be approved by the faculty.

The faculty may require special reporting, as needed.

Mid-way evaluation of the PhD work should normally take place in the third or fourth semester. The candidate shall present his work and be evaluated by a group of at least two persons appointed by the faculty. The evaluation group shall consider the academic status and progress and shall provide feedback to both the candidate, the supervisor and the faculty.

If the evaluation group reports significant weaknesses in the PhD work, measures should be taken to correct the situation.

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3.4 The training component

The training component of the PhD programme in artistic research consists of two courses: a mandatory interdisciplinary training component (20 credits) and an individual project-specific training component (10 credits). Both components should normally be taken after admission to the programme.

Course	Credits per academic year		
	1. year	2. year	3. year
Interdisciplinary training component	20		
Individual project-specific training component	10		-

In connection with the training component, the faculty will offer the candidate guidance on future professional prospects within, and outside of, academia, including awareness of the competences that the candidate has achieved through the PhD work.

3.4.1 Interdisciplinary training component (20 credits)

The interdisciplinary training component is organized through the Norwegian Artistic Research School² as an offer to all candidates in Norwegian PhD programmes in artistic research. The interdisciplinary training component is compulsory for all candidates in this PhD programme.

The research school will provide the PhD candidate with knowledge, skills and competence in line with the Norwegian Qualifications Framework requirements. The PhD candidate will receive training in documentation of reflection and results in artistic research, methodology, project development, as well as ethics. The PhD candidate will receive training in dissemination to colleagues, students and the general public, and develop knowledge and insight through their own artistic practice.

The interdisciplinary training component takes place through seminars, fora and conferences (Artistic Research Fora) organized by the research school.

The seminars gather together PhD candidates in the same year and provide an introduction to artistic research at the PhD level, as well as theming questions related to articulation and documentation of reflection, ethics and copyright, exchange and project development as well as finalisation and dissemination.

Artistic Research Fora (ARF) are held annually and bring together PhD candidates from all years. In the fora, the PhD candidate presents his/her project in a cross-artistic context and invites discussion of the overall dimensions of the project.

ARF conferences are also held annually, as cross-artistic meeting places for national and international projects and artistic research environments. The PhD candidate is given the opportunity to see his own project work in a broader context, and expand the reference basis of the project.

Assessment:

The head of the research school/seminar leader must confirm the PhD candidate's participation in seminars and fora, dissemination of his own artistic projects as well as active participation in professional discourses. The faculty assesses the subject as pass/fail.

² <https://diku.no/en/programmes/norwegian-artistic-research-school>

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3.4.2 Individual project-specific training component (10 credits)

This is a project-specific component that is intended to enhance the PhD candidate's ability to implement their own project. It could be subject-specific courses, necessary technical training, study tours, organization of seminars, courses from Grieg Research School, from other faculties at UiB or from other institutions.

The individual training plan shall be prepared in consultation with the supervisor, immediately after start-up and within three months, and be approved by the faculty. It should be specified in the plan when the individual components are to be completed and what volume they fill. Any changes to the plan must be approved by the faculty.

Assessment:

The faculty approves the subject as passed when the PhD candidate has completed participation in the scheduled activities. Participation must be confirmed by the course leader or other leaders.

4 Completion

4.1 The artistic PhD result

The PhD result shall consist of an artistic result as well as material that documents artistic reflection, cf. *UiB's Regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* sections 1-2 and 10-1. The artistic result is to be an independent work that meets international standards in terms of level and ethical requirements within the subject area.

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.

The artistic result shall be an artistic work at a high level in terms of originality, expression, coherence and dissemination. The artistic result shall be presented in public, cf. *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* sections 12-6 and 12-7.

The artistic reflection shall be documented in the form of submitted material, with a critical approach to

- process in respect of artistic choices and turning points, the use of theory and methods, dialogue with various networks and professional environments etc.
- establishment and description of own artistic standpoint and work in relation to the relevant subject area, nationally and internationally
- contribution to the professional development in the field, including any professional innovations.

The candidate may choose the medium and form for the reflection component and for any other documentation. Language for this is normally English, Norwegian or another Scandinavian language.

4.2 Application for assessment

Application for assessment of the artistic PhD result takes place on submission of the application. The application is submitted to the department no later than five (5) months before the scheduled time for the presentation of the artistic result.

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It is the main supervisor's responsibility to inform the faculty that the application for assessment is imminent, so that necessary preparations can be undertaken. The main supervisor should normally recommend the application.

The application should contain the following, in the form or as attachments:

- A description of the basis for the assessment, including a plan for where, when and in what manner the artistic result shall be presented in public
- A description of the medium, form and language of the reflection component and timing of submission, cf. the options in 4.3
- An explanation of how the training component is, or will be, fulfilled and of any other professional training or expertise
- Documentation of any necessary permits, cf. 2.1 second last sentence.
- Plan for approved documentation and archiving in permanent format of the complete PhD result
- Statement from cooperating partners where this is required, cf. *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* Section 10-2 of the regulations
- Statement whether the work is being submitted for assessment for the first or second time
- Statement that the work has not been submitted for assessment by another institution

4.3 Delivery of results

The artistic result shall be presented in public for assessment.

There are two alternatives for delivery of material that documents artistic reflection:

- If the candidate wants the committee to have insight into the reflection component before the presentation of the artistic result, the committee must have received this material at least four (4) weeks prior to the presentation.
- If the candidate wishes to finalize the reflection component simultaneously with the public presentation of the artistic result, this material should be received by the committee at the same time as the presentation.

4.4 The work of the assessment committee:

Appointment of the committee and the framework for assessment are described in *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* section 11-3 and section 12.

If possible, the leader of the committee should be an employee of the faculty.

The assessment committee shall receive *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research*, approved project description and any guidelines for assessment of the PhD degree. Before the assessment committee starts its work, the faculty should ensure that the committee is familiar with the PhD programme's objective and profile as well as the assessment committee's responsibilities and tasks.

Assessment:

The assessment committee assesses the artistic PhD result as either pass or fail. All components of the submitted or presented material should be discussed based on the requirements of *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* section 10-1 and section 10-2. The recommendation should be in a discursive form and end with a clear conclusion as to whether or not to accept the result. Any dissent or individual statements should be included in the assessment, and they should be justified. The assessment committee's recommendations are addressed to the faculty.

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The committee's recommendation shall be made at the latest within three (3) months after the committee has received all components of the PhD result for assessment.

The faculty's treatment of the recommendation is described in *UiB's regulations for PhD in Artistic Research* section 12-4.

The assessment committee should later present its recommendations for approval of the candidate's public defence of the project.

Any artistic PhD result not found worthy of defence can be assessed in a revised version. A new assessment can only be made once. The final deadline for presenting an application for a new assessment is two (2) years after the faculty has reached a decision on the result that was not approved the first time.

5 Quality assurance

The faculty's organization and quality assurance of the programme are in line with the UiB's Plan for *structure, authority and quality assurance tasks for PhD education* adopted on 30.11.2017, and is formulated in separate guidelines adopted by the faculty board.

The faculty board appoints a programme board with the vice-dean as chair.