

Programme description for the PhD-programme in Artistic Research

The PhD-programme in Artistic Research is an interfaculty study programme at the third cycle of the Norwegian Qualifications Framework. The programme leads to the degree of PhD in Artistic Research.

Language

Norwegian and English. You may apply to your home Faculty¹ to hand in the doctoral work in a different language. The Faculty makes the final decision concerning language for the critical reflection, documentation and artistic result.

Estimated time of study

The PhD education has a nominal duration of three (3) years of full-time study.

Host faculty

Faculty of Humanities. Primary cooperating faculty: Faculty of Architecture and Design.

The study programme in brief

Regulations for the PhD-degree §3-1:

“The objective of the PhD programme is to qualify candidates for scientific or artistic research of a high international standard and for other types of work with exacting requirements in terms of scientific or artistic insight and competence in accordance with sound academic practice and established standards for disciplinary and research ethics. The PhD programme is intended to provide the candidate with knowledge, skills and expertise in keeping with the national qualifications framework. The objective is to contribute to the internationalization of scientific and artistic research, the academic community and the candidate.”

The PhD-programme in Artistic Research is an interfaculty PhD-programme with artistic practise as its main focus. The programme is headed by the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Architecture and Design with the Faculty of Humanities as its host faculty.

The programme offers an education at the third cycle within the creative and performing arts. The programme is open for all relevant groups at NTNU with active artistic research, which can accommodate a PhD-candidate in the field and have the necessary competence to supervise a PhD in artistic research.

The programme will conduct artistic research at a high level, as well as contribute to the development and renewal of art and the concept of art. The programme will educate candidates who are able to perform artistic research at a high international level, place their own work in a broader context and critically reflect on the work. The candidates should be able to consider the limitations of existing knowledge and take initiative towards innovation

¹ The Faculty where you have your primary association

in the field. The programme will contribute to an academic environment at an international level for the articulation of artistic research on the premise of the creative and performing arts where the artistic performance is the focus of the doctoral work.

Evaluation

Individual courses held by NTNU will be evaluated in accordance with NTNU's quality assurance of education. The programme will be assessed in yearly study programme reports written by the head of the study programme in cooperation with the Programme Board. There will also be a periodic evaluation every five years.

Application procedure

The application for admission to the PhD-programme in Artistic Research is sent to the home faculty via the main supervisor and the Department. The application is considered by the Programme Board which recommends admission or not, as well as any additional requirements to the home faculty. The home faculty makes the final decision. In accordance with Section 6-2 in the PhD regulations, the application should contain documentation of qualifications (master's degree or equivalent), documentation of funding for three years full-time including project funds, plan for the compulsory coursework, suggested supervisors and the project description.

Applications will be processed continuously.

Requirements

In accordance with Section 6-1 of the PhD regulations the applicant should have a master's degree (cf. the descriptions in the national qualifications framework), with a strong academic and artistic record from earlier studies. The master's degree should primarily be in creative and/or performing arts, but based on a special assessment the Faculty may approve other comparable qualifications as the basis for admission if the candidate can document an equivalent artistic level through the project description and other documentation. Within the field of creative and performing arts grading other than approved/not approved is rare and there are therefore no concrete grade requirements.

If the applicant does not have a formal education at the second cycle level, the applicant may be assessed on artistic merit. The applicant must clearly satisfy the requirements in the national qualifications framework. It is the applicant's own responsibility to show it's probable they are particularly qualified for completing a doctoral project in artistic research. The applicant must also have a funding plan that guarantees full funding for the project and the applicant for three years net time.

Project description

A complete project description is an important part of the evaluation for admission to the PhD-programme in Artistic Research. The project description should be 5-10 pages. If you are a research fellow employed at NTNU and a complete project description was a requirement for the position, you may hand in the same project description that was part of

your job application. Other applicants to the programme must also hand in a complete project description.

The project description should include information on the following:

Background

The applicant must document appropriate understanding of the field, both nationally and internationally. The proposal must describe how the originality of the project, its innovativeness and relevance to the field will contribute to new knowledge. The applicant must briefly describe the research question(s) and the planned project, as well as describe how different theories and methods may inform the project's development. The applicant must also describe which methods can be used to document the process and result.

Project plan

The project must be an independent artistic work of a high standard, particularly as it relates to expression, coherence and communication of results. The candidate must demonstrate how the project can be completed in the designated time frame, i.e. 3 years full-time study, including ½ year of coursework.

Relevance

The project must be placed academically at the institution and in a national and international context.

Ethical considerations

The candidate must consider whether there are any ethical questions related to the implementation of the project. If that is the case, the applicant must describe how these will be addressed.

Dissemination and progress plan

The applicant must describe how the artistic result will be made public, in terms of both time schedule and format. The applicant must also account for how the critical reflection will be communicated, in terms of both media and form.

Equipment and budget

The applicant must account for necessary equipment and infrastructure to complete the artistic research project.

Funding

It is a requirement that applicants have a funding plan with formal agreements concerning funding explicitly set aside for doctoral work. This includes PhD research fellowships and applicants with other positions with a binding agreement with their employer.

Supervision (Section 8 in the PhD-regulations)

As a general rule, the PhD candidate is to have at least two academic supervisors. The main supervisor carries the primary academic responsibility for the candidate and must therefore

have expertise in artistic research. The main supervisor should also be employed at the candidate's department. Appointed supervisors should have a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification (Associate Professor/Professor or similar), normally in the field of artistic research. At least one of the supervisors must have previous experience in supervision of PhD-candidates, normally until completion of the doctoral degree.

The Faculty may appoint supporting supervisors who do not meet the formal qualification requirements for supervisors, but who have specific skills that are essential to the implementation of the project. Competence and relevance must be specified in the application for appointment.

Residency requirement (Section 6-3 in the PhD-regulations)

It is important that PhD-candidates who are not employed at NTNU are active parts of the community at the Department, both for the good of the candidate and the artistic community. The Department is responsible for ensuring that the requirements for residency at NTNU for a total of one year is taken care of in a manner that is satisfactory to all parties.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

The candidate

- Has a general overview of the field and is in the forefront of knowledge within their field of expertise
- Masters methods and can formulate research questions in artistic research
- Can assess the usefulness 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 and reflection within the field of creative and performing arts
- Is in the forefront of identifying relevant trends in the field and can critically and creatively use and develop these

Skills

The candidate

- Can formulate research questions for, plan and complete and independent artistic research project at a high national and international level, with a focus on artistic methods and results
- Can handle complex artistic questions and challenge established knowledge and praxis in the field
- Can develop an artistic praxis that is unique and through this generate new knowledge
- Can self-critically reflect on, document and communicate central processes, methods and qualities in the field of artistic research
- Can reflect on how the project touch upon, challenge and develop relevant issues in the field

- Can critically and dialogically reflect on their own artistic point of view and the role of the field – nationally and internationally
- Can understand and relate to the ethical dimensions of their work and perform their artistic research with understanding of other involved parties, contexts, fields and materials

General competence

The candidate

- Can identify relevant ethical issues and perform artistic research with scholarly integrity
- Can manage artistic and interdisciplinary projects
- Can cooperate with experts and actors in their own and other fields
- Can communicate artistic research through relevant national and international channels
- Can participate in debates in the field in international forums
- Can assess the need for, initiate and practice innovation in the field and contribute to the development of new agendas for art as a response to complex social challenges
- Is capable of navigating between different institutional cultures and professional environments, nationally and internationally
- Can reformulate and analyze research questions outside of conventional frameworks and utilize different perspectives, theories and methods to contribute to change and development

Programme structure

The PhD-programme consists of a coursework component of 30 ECTS and 2,5 years to complete the artistic research project.

Coursework

The coursework component will give training at a high level according to international standards. The coursework will include training in documentation of process and result, artistic reflection and communication, introduction to academic and research ethics, the philosophy of science and artistic research methodology. The coursework should support the doctoral work, as well as contribute to academic breadth and depth.

Content and scope

The coursework component consists of 20 ECTS in joint courses and 10 ECTS in project-specific courses. At least 20 ECTS must be at the doctoral level.

Joint coursework (20 ECTS)

The joint coursework is offered through the Norwegian Artistic Research School. The courses offered through the research school will be held as session-based seminars. Courses in methods, reflection, documentation, ethics, communication and project development will be offered. Participation in the research school is compulsory for candidates at the PhD-programme.

Project-specific courses (10 ECTS)

The project-specific training can be adapted to the candidate's project. Relevant courses are suggested by the candidate and supervisor together, and approved by the candidate's home faculty on the recommendation of the Programme Board. Courses at the Master level are only approved if they have particular relevance to the project.

Examples of courses at NTNU that can be part of the project-specific component:

LOS8003 Doing Research with the Arts as Methodological Practice (5 sp), ILU, SU
ESTET8863 Arts Based Research Methodology. Practice-Led Research: Discipline Research and Ways of Human Knowledge (5 sp), HF
KULT8851 Theories of Science (10 sp), HF

Other relevant courses locally, nationally and internationally can also be part of the coursework component if approved by the Programme Board and the Faculty.

Transitional arrangement

During a transitional period of three years the programme will approve coursework components completed in accordance with *Guidelines for the Norwegian Artistic Research Fellowship Programme* for candidates that originally were admitted to the Norwegian Artistic Research Fellowship Programme and who have transferred to the PhD-programme in Artistic Research.

Academic tools and gatherings

Courses in various academic tools can be hosted by relevant faculties or NTNU. These courses can not be included as part of the coursework component, but may in some cases grant ECTS above the minimum requirement of 30 ECTS. Academic tool courses are announced through Innsida and/or the Learning portal.

The programme will host joint gatherings at least twice a year for the programme's PhD-candidates and supervisors. In these gatherings candidates and supervisors will meet across disciplines and benefit from each other's' competence.

Approving the coursework

A plan for the coursework component is generally approved in connection with admission to the programme.

If the PhD-candidate wish to change the original plan, this must be done in cooperation with the supervisor. An application including a recommendation from the supervisor, is sent to the home faculty and is assessed by the Programme Board.

The artistic doctoral work

The artistic doctoral work consists of an artistic result, documentation and the critical reflection. Artistic praxis should be at the centre of the doctoral work. To quote Section 11-2 of the PhD-regulations: *“The artistic doctoral work must consist of an artistic result as well as material that documents critical reflection. The artistic doctoral work must be an independent work that meets international standards with regard to the level and ethical requirements within the discipline. The artistic doctoral work must be at a level that enables it to contribute to development of new knowledge, insight and experience in the discipline.”*

The artistic result must be at a high level in terms of originality, expression, coherence and communication and must be presented publicly. The format for the presentation is agreed upon by the candidate and the supervisor. The Department and the candidate have a joint responsibility for making sure that the artistic result is documented in a lasting format.

In the critical reflection the candidate should explicitly give information on and reflect upon:

- Process (artistic choices, use of theories and methods, dialogue with different networks and communities etc.)
- Positioning and description of the candidate’s own artistic point of view and work in relation to the relevant discipline, nationally and internationally
- How the project contributes to the artistic development in the field, including any innovations

The candidate themselves chooses the medium and form in cooperation with the supervisor. It is important to choose a medium and form that is suitable for the project as well as making it possible to reflect upon the doctoral work and its content. The critical reflection should make it possible for others to participate in the work mode and insight generated by the artistic research.

Completion

The PhD-candidate must hand in an application for evaluation of the artistic doctoral work to their home faculty no later than three months prior to the planned public presentation of the artistic result. In accordance with Section 13-3 of the PhD-regulations, the application must contain:

- An account of what should form the basis for the evaluation, including a short description of the project
- Concrete and binding plan for the presentation of the artistic result
- An account on the choice of medium, language and form of the reflection component and the date of submission
- An account of how the required coursework is or will be fulfilled, and for any other relevant academic training or competence
- Documentation of required permissions as detailed in Section 6-1
- Plan for approved documentation and archiving
- Statement that the doctoral artistic doctoral result has not been submitted for evaluation at another institution
- Statement regarding whether the artistic doctoral result is being submitted for evaluation for the first or second time
- Declaration from collaborators when this is required under Section 11-3
- Statement from the main supervisor

In accordance with Section 14 of the PhD-regulations, the Department proposes the evaluation committee. It is therefore important that the candidate alerts the Department prior to handing in the application for assessment.

The public presentation of the artistic result is completed in the form and manner that is suitable for the project. If the presentation is done in the form of an event taking place at a specific time and location, the whole evaluation committee must be present.

Material that documents the critical reflection must be submitted no later than three weeks after the public presentation.

The assessment committee will evaluate the artistic doctoral work as a whole when all the material has been made available. The committee's report is sent to the candidate's home faculty which will forward it to the candidate. If the work is approved, the public defence will take place within two months of the home faculty finding the work worthy of being defended for the doctoral degree.