

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION FOR THE PHD PROGRAMME IN INTERDISCIPLINARY CHILD RESEARCH 2017/2018

Approved by the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences on 8 May 2017

### Admission requirements

The requirement for admission to the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Child Research is a master's degree/graduate study (hovedfag) in a social science or humanities discipline. Applicants from other subject areas/disciplines relevant to child research may also be considered for admission. A grade point average of B or better from the master's degree programme or equivalent education is required. Applicants with lower grades may be admitted if they can document that they are suitable candidates for a PhD programme. Applicants must document that they have full funding.

The Department assesses applications for admission to the PhD programme continuously.

### Introduction

The aim of the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Child Research is to prepare the PhD candidate for a career in research and higher education, as well as for other work that requires advanced scientific expertise and analytical skills.

The final course plan for the PhD programme is drawn up in consultation between the candidate, the supervisor, and the Department depending on the subject of the thesis and the candidate's individual needs and wishes. (cf. Section 2 of the PhD Regulations)

### Learning outcomes

The purpose of the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Child Research is to develop the candidate's qualifications for work that sets high standards for scientific competence. The main component of the programme is an independent piece of research at a high scientific level. The organized academic training is intended to support the candidate's work with the doctoral thesis and to contribute to the required academic depth and breadth, enabling further development of the candidate's independent and reflective relationship to his or her own research and that of others, as well as the role of research in a broader context.

A student who has completed the PhD programme has achieved the following learning outcomes, defined in terms of knowledge, skills and general competence:

Knowledge:

The candidate has a good overview of key issues in interdisciplinary child research; good insight into key theoretical and methodological approaches in international research.

The candidate has in-depth knowledge of national and international research and debates concerning the topic of the thesis.

### Skills:

The candidate can plan and conduct an independent piece of research at a high scientific level that fulfils the principles of ethical research in the field.

The candidate can carry out insightful and reflected analyses of relevant themes in interdisciplinary child research.

The candidate can disseminate his or her own research to a national and international audience.

### General competence:

The candidate can disseminate research orally and in writing through recognized national and international channels.

The candidate can participate in debates on interdisciplinary child research.

The candidate can plan and carry out an independent piece of research in the discipline.

The candidate has a reflective approach to his or her own research and that of others, including issues of ethical and social relevance.

The candidate is qualified in critical and analytical thinking on topical and socially relevant questions.

## Duration, scope and level

### Degree

Candidates who complete the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Child Research are awarded the degree of Philosophiae Doctor, in accordance with the "Regulations for the Philosophiae Doctor degree (PhD)" <http://www.ntnu.no/phd/reglement>

### Scope and workload

The degree comprises 180 credits in total, and the nominal length of study is 3 years. The programme is structured as a full-time course of study.

### Level

The programme of study is in the third cycle in the Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.

### Host faculty and department

The Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences is the host faculty, and the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning is the responsible unit.

## Programme structure

The PhD programme consists of the following elements:

- project description

- scientific and academic dissemination
- required coursework or other academic training
- thesis

**Project description** (see Section 5.2 of the PhD regulations)

The project description must provide an explanation of the thematic area, research questions, and the choice of theory and methodology. The description of the research project should normally total between 8 and 10 pages.

**Academic dissemination** (see Section 5.2 of the PhD regulations)

The candidate must present material from his or her PhD work at academic conferences, courses for researchers and seminars at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research.

**Required coursework or other academic training** (see Section 8 of the PhD regulations)

In the application, the candidate must provide a plan for completion of the organized academic training in consultation with the supervisor(s). It is recommended that the training be completed early in the programme. To pass the courses, the candidate must have a grade of B or better, or a pass for courses assessed using a two-part scale with the grades Pass and Fail. On their own initiative, candidates must register for assessment in courses by the specified deadlines. For procedures for enrolment in courses and approval of external training/courses, see the Faculty's website.

The organized academic training component must cover at least 30 credits in total. Applications to make changes in the approved training plan must be decided by the Department based on the supervisor's recommendation.

The academic training component includes 3 elements:

- Philosophy of science, 10 credits
- Methodology 10 credits
- Theory/substance 10 credits.

The Department works in partnership with other Norwegian and Nordic departments to organize researcher training in interdisciplinary child research. Training is recognized to the extent that it is relevant to the candidate's work. The number of credits granted for the individual course will be determined based on the length of the course and the scope of the candidate's contribution, preferably by the institution that organizes the course. The Faculty approves the individual candidate's required academic training based on the recommendation of the supervisor and the Department.

Course code	Title	Credits	Semester
SFEL8000	Philosophy of Science for the Social Sciences	10	Autumn/spring

*See the website of the SU Faculty. Other courses may also be relevant.*

*NOSEB offers teaching in two PhD courses per academic year*

Course code	Title	Credits	Semester
BARN8101	Social Studies of Children and Childhood: Research Perspectives	10	Autumn
BARN8200	Methodology in Child and Childhood Research	10	Autumn

*Courses are held on condition that at least 3 participants enrol. If there are fewer participants, the member of the teaching staff responsible for the course will decide whether the courses should be organized as reading courses instead.*

The Department also organizes other PhD courses in child research at regular intervals. The Department approves the individual candidate's training plan based on the recommendation of the supervisor and the Department.

Please note that the following PhD courses overlap with other courses:

BARN8101 - BARN3101, 10 credits

BARN8101 – BARN8001, 10 credits

BARN8200 - BARN3202, 10 credits

BARN8200 - BARN8002, 10 credits

**Thesis** (see Section 10 of the PhD Regulations)

The requirements for the thesis and the rules for assessment are specified in the Regulations for the PhD degree at NTNU. If the thesis consists of several shorter works (normally 3-4 journal articles / book chapters), the candidate must be the sole or first author of at least half of them.

## Learning methods

In PhD education, one encounters many different learning methods, such as lectures, various types of seminar, individual academic supervision, supervised group work as well as project and research work.

## Forms of assessment

### Required coursework or other academic training

PhD candidates must pass all courses in the approved training plan, in accordance with Section 8 of the PhD Regulations. The form of assessment is adapted to the content of each course, normally through assignments/papers, which are assessed as passed / failed.

### Trial lecture and public defence

An assessment committee will assess the quality of the academic thesis, trial lecture and public defence of the thesis (disputation); see Section 14 of the PhD Regulations.

The form of assessment that has the greatest scope is the PhD thesis (see Section 10 of the PhD Regulations)

### Internationalization

The candidate is expected to participate in international conferences and present his or her work there. It is recommended that the candidate spend time with an international collaborative partner as part of the PhD programme.

### Entrepreneurship, innovation, and innovative thinking

The PhD programme is based on a relevant problem formulation within the subject area. In his or her PhD work, the candidate links theory and empirical evidence, and learns to apply research methods to investigate the relevant problem formulation. Together with the research results, such competence forms the basis for innovative thinking about research methods, theory and development in the candidate's own field of research.

### Career opportunities

A completed PhD degree qualifies the graduate for management, higher education and research. Academia is often regarded as the most common career path for doctoral graduates, but a large proportion of our candidates go on to work in public-sector administration and in the private sector.