

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION FOR THE PHD PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY 2017/2018

Approved on 24 April 2017 by the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences (SU)

Admission requirements

The main requirement for admission is a cand.psychol. or master's degree/graduate study (hovedfag) in psychology. Similar education approved by the Faculty may also be accepted as a basis for admission. The applicant may then be required to take qualification courses. A strong academic background from previous studies is required in the form of a grade of B or better in the weighted grade point average for the master's programme.

The application for admission to the PhD programme must be prepared in cooperation with the intended supervisor. Applicants therefore requested to contact the Department of Psychology.

Funding is essential in order to start an organized PhD programme. If the student does not apply for an advertised PhD position, other/external sources of funding must be documented.

Introduction

The objective of the PhD programme is to qualify candidates to conduct research of a high international standard and perform other types of work with exacting requirements in terms of scientific insight and analytical thinking in accordance with sound scientific practice and established standards for 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 research, the academic community and the candidate.

Learning outcomes

Research training at the Department of Psychology is intended to provide academic support and guidance for the candidate's thesis work and to qualify the candidate for research activities or other work with exacting requirements for scientific insight. The programme must also provide the basis for an independent, critical and reflected relationship to the candidate's own and other research through specialization in theoretical and methodological courses, and provide training in dissemination of research results in scientific forums.

A candidate who has completed a PhD degree in psychology must have the following knowledge, skills and general competence:

Knowledge

- be in the forefront of knowledge in psychology and master the subject's theory of science and methods
- be able to evaluate the appropriateness and application of different methods and processes in research and academic development projects
- be able to contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the discipline

Skills

- be able to formulate relevant problems, as well as to plan and conduct research and academic development work
- be able to carry out research and academic development work of a high international standard
- be able to handle complex academic issues and challenge established knowledge and practice in psychology
- be able to make decisions on scientific grounds supported by a complex documentation base
- be able to provide teaching in psychology based on their own research

General competence

- be able to analyse problems in the natural and/or social sciences from a psychological perspective
- be able to identify and take a position on relevant and ethically sound research questions and perform their academic work with integrity
- be able to manage complex interdisciplinary work assignments and projects
- be able to manage research projects within specified limits and participate in more complex interdisciplinary research projects
- be able to communicate research and development work through recognized national and international channels
- be able to participate in debates in the field in international forums

Duration, scope and level

The PhD programme is a structured degree with a nominal duration of three years' full-time study. Some PhD positions include a fourth year with required duties, normally in the form of teaching. The programme of study consists of an academic training component of at least 30 credits and an independent piece of research with a nominal duration of 2.5 years. A PhD programme demands a high degree of independence and ability to get things done.

The final plan for the PhD programme, which is drawn up in consultation between the candidate, the supervisors, and the Department of Psychology, is adapted to the subject area for the thesis and the candidate's individual needs and wishes.

The doctoral degree in psychology is a third-cycle programme of study. When the programme and public defence of the thesis have been completed and passed, the candidate will achieve the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in psychology.

The Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences is the host faculty, and the Department of Psychology is the responsible academic environment.

Programme structure

The main aim of the PhD programme in Psychology is to offer active research work under academic supervision, as well as to provide in-depth training in advanced research methods and selected theoretical specialization courses. The main aim of the training component is to provide insight into theories and methods needed for work on the thesis. The training should also contribute to the candidate's general academic education and work.

In the application, the candidate must provide a plan for completion of the organized academic training in consultation with the desired supervisor(s). It is recommended that

the training be completed early in the programme. On their own initiative, candidates must register for assessment in courses by the specified deadlines. External courses to be included in the training must be approved by the Department. Procedures for enrolment in courses and approval of external courses are described in the Faculty's website. Decisions on applications for changes in the approved training plan are made by the Department based on the main supervisor's recommendation.

The training component has a nominal duration of one semester's full-time work, that is, 30 credits, and it must be completed before the thesis is submitted. The training component has three categories:

- Philosophy of science, minimum 7.5 credits
- Methodological courses, minimum 7.5 credits
- Courses on theory/substance, minimum 7.5 credits

The Department of Psychology offers training with the main aim of providing insight into theories and methods needed for work on the thesis. The PhD programme at the Department offers two supervisor-managed courses with an individual syllabus – one related to theory (PSY8010) and one to methods (PSY8011). In addition, five specialization courses are offered on defined topics; “Risk Reception and Risk Communication” (PSY8002), “Multivariate Research Methods” (PSY8003), “Human Psychophysiology: High-Density EEG Analysis” (PSY8005), “Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling” (PSY8006) and «Dissemination of Research» (PSY8007).

It is recommended that, of the total of 30 credits required for the training component, at least 20 be taken at the Department of Psychology. Candidates can choose from four specialization courses in research methods (PSY8011, PSY8003, PSY8005, PSY8006) and two courses in psychological theory (PSY8010 and PSY8002). The PSY8007 is categorized as method / theory. For the course on the philosophy of science, see the SU Faculty's other courses. The course can also be taken at another faculty or university.

Two courses have been set up with an individual syllabus: one in theoretical training - PSY8010, and one in research methods - PSY8011. The courses allows a high degree of adaptation to individual research questions. Each course provides for 10 hours of academic supervision including time for preparatory and follow-up work, and the following requirements must be met:

- Approved syllabus (about 400 pages)
- Completed academic supervision - 10 hours for each of the courses (theory and method), individual or in a group with others who are working on the same research question.
- The candidate must submit a paper that describing the issues that have been raised between the supervisor and the candidate. The form, scope and level of the written work are specified in the submission form for the course (available on the Department's website).
- The candidate must present the paper in an academic forum approved by the supervisor.

Enrolment for PSY8010 and PSY8011 takes place via Student Web, but also requires each PhD candidate to contact a suitable supervisor at the Department of Psychology. The candidate and the supervisor enter into an agreement using a form available from the Department of Psychology.

On the supervisor's recommendation, credits can be awarded for conference presentations and research visits abroad or at another national institution. A presentation (lecture and/or poster) at an international conference provides up to 2 credits, while a national conference provides up to 1 credit. This can be considered in each case. No credit may be awarded for conference presentations that are included in the form of assessment for the courses PSY8010 or PSY8011. A research visit to an institution abroad or another national institution must last at least two weeks, which is equivalent to 3 credits. Visits with a longer duration provide up to 1.5 credits per week. In total, 4 credits can be awarded for conference presentations and a total of 6 credits can be awarded for research visits. Contact the Department for further information about the application process.

Philosophy of science must also be included as a compulsory component of the PhD programme. The Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences offers the course SFEL8000 Philosophy of Science for the Social Sciences (10 credits). If the candidate wishes to take courses/credits that are not offered by the Department of Psychology, he/she may, upon application, supplement the programme with teaching, courses and similar offered at the candidate's own or other institutions, which are approved as doctoral courses for the PhD programme.- the programme. Contact the Department for further information about courses provided in the psychology communities at the other universities in Norway. In general, external courses and similar in all three categories can be approved upon application to the department and according to the Faculty's guidelines.

Courses that must/can be included in the training:

Code	Title	Credits	Semester
PSY8002**	Risk Perception and Risk Communication	10	Spring
PSY8003**	Multivariate Research Methods	10	Spring → Autumn
PSY8005***	Human Psychophysiology: High-Density EEG Analysis	10	Spring
PSY8006**	Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling	10	Spring → Autumn
PSY8007****	Dissemination of Research	10	Spring → Autumn
PSY8010*	Individually Selected Text - Theory	7.5	Autumn/ Spring
PSY8011*	Individually Selected Text - Research Methods	7.5	Autumn/ Spring
SFEL8000	Philosophy of Science for the Social Sciences	10	Autumn/ Spring

* The course is restricted to candidates admitted to the PhD programme in Psychology.

** Enrolment of at least 5 PhD candidates is a prerequisite for holding the course.

*** A minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 PhD candidates are required.

**** A minimum of 5 and maximum of 14 PhD candidates are required.

Training and courses that might replace the courses above must be approved by the Department

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

Course code	Reduction
PSY8010: PSY8000	7.5 credits
PSY8011: PSY8001	7.5 credits

Thesis

The requirements for the thesis and the rules for assessment are specified in the Regulations for the PhD degree at NTNU. The thesis must contribute to the development of new knowledge and be of an academic standard that is appropriate for publication as part of the literature of the relevant field. Theses consisting of a compilation of articles must normally have a scope of at least three (3) articles, of which the candidate must be the first author of at least two (2) articles.

If the thesis is approved for public defence, the candidate must hold a trial lecture. The trial lecture must be approved before the public defence can take place.

Learning methods

The Department of Psychology offers varied teaching in the PhD courses, adapted to the subjects being taught, including lectures, seminars, training exercises and laboratory work.

The candidate and supervisor(s) have a shared responsibility for ensuring that use of respondents and human subjects, or animal models, as well as collection, storage and presentation of data, take place in accordance with applicable laws and policies for research ethics.

Candidates are expected to present their research through scientific dissemination. For dissemination, candidates have several options:

- Academic presentation at scientific congresses
- Popular science dissemination

Forms of assessment

During the PhD programme, students' knowledge and skills are assessed through various forms of examinations and compulsory activities. The forms of assessment may be written or oral, and they may be individual or cooperative assignments.

The submitted thesis must be assessed and approved by a commission, and must be defended orally in the disputation (public defence).

Internationalization

Doctoral education at NTNU has an international focus. The candidate is expected to participate actively in international conferences and to publish findings in international peer-reviewed journals. It is possible to take parts of the programme abroad, either in the form of longer research visits or by taking part of the training component abroad.

Entrepreneurship and innovation

The completed thesis must contribute to developing new academic knowledge and must be at an international level in the discipline.

Career opportunities

A doctoral degree is the highest academic education one can take. PhD graduates can continue a career in research or a professional career within or outside academia.

Special requirements and conditions

Candidates with external funding or an external workplace must reside at NTNU for at least one year of their PhD education.