

Translated October 2017

This translation is for information purposes only. Legal authenticity remains with the official Norwegian version as published in Norsk Lovtidend.

Regulations for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Adopted by the university college board on 22 December 2016 pursuant to the Act of 1 April 2005 No. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges Sections 3-3, 3-9 and 4-3.

PART I INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Section 1 Applicability of these guidelines

The regulations in this document apply to all education culminating in the Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD). These guidelines recommend provisions for admission to, participation in and completion of doctoral training, including joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements.

Section 2 Objectives, scope and content of doctoral education

Section 2.1 Objectives

The objective of doctoral education is to qualify candidates to conduct research of international quality and to perform other types of work requiring a high level of scientific expertise and analytical thinking in accordance with sound scientific practice and established standards on research ethics. Doctoral education is to provide the candidate with knowledge, skills and general competence in keeping with the national qualifications framework.

Section 2.2 Scope and content

Doctoral education consists of three years of full-time study, and includes required coursework comprising a minimum of 30 credits.

The most important component of doctoral education is an independent research project carried out under close academic supervision.

Section 2.3 The PhD degree

The PhD degree is conferred on the basis of:

- an approved doctoral thesis
- approved completion of the required coursework
- an approved trial lecture on an assigned topic
- an approved public defence of the doctoral thesis

Section 3 Responsibility for doctoral education

The Board of Western Norway University of Applied Sciences has the overall responsibility for doctoral education.

The board determine host faculty for each PhD programme.

Dean at the host faculty has the academic and administrative responsibility for implementation of doctoral education.

The board appoints a central PhD committee at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. The board determines mandate for and composition of the central PhD committee.

Every accredited PhD programme must have a programme committee. The board determine mandate for and composition of the programme committees. Dean appoint members to the programme committee.

Section 4 Quality assurance

Doctoral education must be included under the quality assurance system for Western Norway University College.

PART II ADMISSION

Section 5 Admission

Section 5.1 Conditions of admission

To be eligible for admission to doctoral training, applicants must normally have completed a Master's degree of 120 credits building upon a Bachelor's degree of 180 credits or an integrated Master's degree of 300 credits, c.f. the descriptions in the second cycle of the national qualifications framework. The programme committee of each PhD programme decide which Master's degrees qualify for admission to the PhD programme. Based on a special assessment, the programme committee may approve other, comparable qualifications as the basis for admission. The programme committee may set other qualification requirements based on criteria that are publicly available and in keeping with the university college's recruitment policy and academic profile.

Applications should contain:

- documentation of the educational qualifications to serve as the basis of admission;
- a project description that includes:
 - o scientific description of the project
 - o progress plan
 - o documentation of a funding plan
 - o documentation of special needs for academic and material resources
 - o any plans for a stay at another institution
 - o plans for research dissemination
 - o information about any restrictions on intellectual property rights that are intended to protect the rights of others
- plan for the required coursework;
- list of relevant publications.
- recommendation for at least one academic supervisor and a statement regarding the applicant's proposed affiliation with an active research group;
- application to use other languages than Norwegian or English in writing the doctoral thesis, trial lecture and public defence of doctoral thesis, where applicable
- a description of any legal or ethical issues raised by the project and how these can be

addressed. The application must state whether the project is dependent on permission granted by committees on research ethics and other authorities or private individuals (research subjects, patients, parents, etc.). If possible, such permission should be obtained in writing and attached to the application.

The programme committee may establish additional documentation requirements.

The project description has to be developed in cooperation with the main academic supervisor. The project description has to provide an explanation of the thematic area, research questions, and the choice of theory and methodology. The candidate and the main academic supervisor have to, as quickly as possible and within three (3) months of admission, review the project description and assess the need for any adjustments.

As a general rule, an application for admission to doctoral training must be submitted within three (3) months of the start-up of the research project that will culminate in conferral of the PhD degree. If less than one (1) year of full-time work on the research project remains at the time of submission of the application, the application will be rejected, c.f. section 5.3.

Section 5.2 *Infrastructure*

The infrastructure needed to implement the research project must be placed at the disposal of the candidate. It is the responsibility of the dean to decide what infrastructure is necessary for implementing the project. For candidates with external funding or an external workplace, an agreement must be entered into between the dean and the external party in connection with the research project concerned. As a general rule, the agreement must be signed prior to the formal admission of the candidate or immediately thereafter.

Section 5.3 *Admission decision*

The decision to grant admission is made by the programme committee based on an overall assessment of the application.

The formal admission letter will appoint at least one academic supervisor, assign responsibility for dealing with other needs outlined in the application, and establish the start and end dates of the agreement period. The start date will be the same as the date when the candidate's funding begins. Any extension of the agreement period must be related to the rights of employees pursuant to Norwegian law, or be the subject of a separate agreement on the candidate's funding base.

Admission will be denied if:

- agreements with external third parties prevent the doctoral thesis from being made available to the public or from being defended in a public forum;
- the agreements on intellectual property rights that have been entered into are so unreasonable that Western Norway University of Applied Sciences should not be involved in the project;
- the applicant cannot fulfil the requirement which states that a minimum of one year of the project must be carried out after the candidate has been granted admission to doctoral training, c.f. section 5.1.

Section 5.4 Agreement period

Doctoral education consists of three (3) years of full-time study. Maximum time allowed to complete the doctoral programme, excluding legally established leaves of absence and required duties, is 6 years from starting date to public defence of doctoral thesis.

If the candidate's training is interrupted for legally established reasons, the agreement period will be extended correspondingly.

The programme committee may, upon application, extend the agreement period. If an extension of the agreement period is approved, the programme committee may stipulate additional terms and conditions.

When the period of admission expires, the rights and obligations of the parties in connection with the PhD agreement terminate. This means that the PhD candidate may lose his/her right to receive academic supervision, participate in courses and have access to the institution's infrastructure. However, the candidate may apply for permission to submit his/her doctoral thesis for evaluation for the PhD degree.

Section 5.5 Termination prior to expiry of the agreement period

Voluntary termination:

The candidate and the university college may agree that the candidate's participation in the doctoral programme will be terminated prior to expiry of the agreement period. In the event of voluntary termination, all questions regarding the terms and conditions of employment, funding, rights to the use of the research results, etc. must be settled in a termination agreement.

If voluntary termination is due to the candidate's desire to change projects or transfer to a different doctoral programme, the candidate must reapply for admission on the basis of the new project.

Involuntary termination:

The university college may decide to terminate a candidate's participation in the doctoral programme prior to expiry of the agreement period without the candidate's consent. Involuntary termination may be imposed if one or more of the following conditions are present:

- serious delays in the completion of the required coursework due to factors over which the candidate has control;
- repeated or grave violations of the candidate's obligations to provide information, meet commitments, and report on the project, including a failure to submit a progress report, c.f. section 9;
- delays in the progress of the research project that are of such a nature as to raise doubts about the candidate's ability to complete the project within the stipulated time period. Such delays are considered grounds for involuntary termination if they are due to factors over which the candidate has control;
- violation of the ethical standards that pertain in the candidate's field of research,

including cheating as addressed in section 4.7 of the Act relating to universities and university colleges;

- behaviour by the candidate that is in violation of the trust that must exist between an institution and its candidates, including any illegal activities carried out in connection with the doctoral programme.

It is the responsibility of the programme committee to make the decision to impose involuntary termination. The PhD candidate has the right to appeal the decision to the central PhD committee

PhD candidates may be dismissed from their position when there are proper grounds for doing so, c.f. sections 9 and 10 of the Civil Servants Act or section 15 of the Act regarding summary discharge.

Section 6 The PhD agreement

Admission to doctoral training must be formalised in a written agreement signed by the PhD candidate, the academic supervisor(s) and the dean. The agreement regulates the rights and obligations of the parties during the period of admission and is intended to ensure that the candidate participates on a regular basis in an active research group and that he/she is able to complete the training within the stipulated time period. The central PhD committee is responsible for creating a standardised form for this purpose.

For PhD candidates with funding from, employment at or other contributions from an external party, a separate agreement must be entered into between the candidate, the institution and the external party, in keeping with the established guidelines.

In the event that the PhD candidate will be affiliated with an institution abroad, the university college's guidelines for such cooperation must be followed and a separate agreement must be entered into using the institution's standardised form. As a general rule, the signed agreement must be attached to the admission agreement.

Substantial changes in the agreement, affecting implementation of the research project or coursework, have to be approved by the programme committee.

PART III IMPLEMENTATION

Section 7 Academic supervision

The work involved in the doctoral thesis must be carried out under individualised academic supervision. The dean and the supervisors are to work together to ensure that the PhD candidate participates in an active research group.

Section 7.1 *Appointment of academic supervisors*

As a general rule, the PhD candidate will have two academic supervisors, of which one will be designated as the main supervisor. The main supervisor should be appointed at the time of admission.

The main supervisor has the primary academic-related responsibility for the candidate, and should as a general rule come from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. If the

programme committee appoints an external main supervisor, a co-supervisor from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences must also be appointed.

Co-supervisors are experts in the field who provide supervision and share the academic-related responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor.

The division of supervision between main supervisor and co-supervisor must be specified in the agreement on admission to a PhD programme at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

Provisions on impartiality in sections 6-10 of the Public Administration Act regarding disqualification apply to the academic supervisors.

All academic supervisors must hold a doctoral degree in the relevant research field and be working actively as researchers. At least one of the appointed supervisors should have previous experience or training in serving as a supervisor for PhD candidates.

The PhD candidate and academic supervisor may ask the university college to appoint a new supervisor for the candidate. Routines for change of supervisors are described in the agreement on admission to a PhD programme at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. The supervisor may not withdraw before a new supervisor has been appointed. The parties may bring any disputes regarding the academic-related rights and obligations of the supervisor and candidate to the programme committee for review and a final decision.

Section 7.2 *Duties of the academic supervisors*

The candidate and academic supervisors must have regular contact. The frequency of contact between the parties must be stated in the annual progress report, c.f. section 9.

The supervisors are required to stay informed of the progress of the candidate's work and to assess it in relation to the progress plan in the project description, c.f. section 5.1.

The supervisors are required to follow up academic-related factors that may cause a delay in the candidate's progress so that the candidate can complete the training within the stipulated time period.

The supervisors are to give advice on formulating and delimiting the thematic area and research questions, discuss and assess hypotheses and methodology, discuss the results and the interpretation of these, discuss the structure and implementation of the thesis, including the outline, choice of language, documentation, etc., and provide guidance on the academic literature and data available in libraries, archives, etc. The supervisors must also advise the candidate on the issue of research ethics related to the thesis.

Section 8 Required coursework

Section 8.1 *Purpose, content and scope*

Doctoral education must be organised such that candidates are able to complete their training within the stipulated time frame.

The dean is responsible for ensuring that the required coursework, together with the work involved in the doctoral thesis, constitute an education at a high academic level in accordance with international standards. Doctoral training must include the completion of a research project, training in research dissemination and an introduction to research ethics, the philosophy of science and scientific methods. The coursework, together with the research project, must be designed to achieve the anticipated learning outcome in accordance with the national qualifications framework.

If the university college itself does not provide all of the required courses, it must facilitate the candidate's participation in comparable courses at other institutions.

The coursework must consist of at least 30 credits, of which 20 credits must be completed following admission to the programme. Credits approved as part of the required coursework should not have been completed more than two (2) years prior to the date of admission.

Doctoral-level courses completed at another institution must be approved in accordance with the provisions of section 3-5, first paragraph, of the Act relating to universities and university colleges.

The faculty should offer PhD candidates advice on future career opportunities within and outside of academia, including making the candidates aware of the expertise that they have acquired through their research activity.

Section 8.2 *The candidate's rights in the event of leave of absence*

PhD candidates on parental leave from the doctoral programme may attend classes and sit for examinations in courses that will be included as part of the candidate's required coursework during the leave period, pursuant to section 14-10, fourth paragraph, of the National Insurance Act and the circular from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration regarding section 14-10, fourth paragraph, of 18 December 2006, last amended on 30 June 2009.

Section 8.3 *Additional regulation*

Provisions on examination and cheating in regulations governing studies and examinations at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences apply for the PhD programme.

Section 9 Reporting and midterm evaluation

Section 9.1 Reporting

The university college's system for the quality assurance of doctoral education must include measures to uncover insufficient progress on the doctoral thesis and coursework, inadequacies in supervision, and routines for handling any such deficiencies that might arise. This system will include the submission of annual, individual reports by the PhD candidate and the academic supervisor, and be designed to avoid dual reporting.

The candidate and the supervisor are equally responsible for submitting the required reports to the programme committee. A lack of, or inadequate, progress reports from the candidate may result in involuntary termination of the candidate's participation in the doctoral programme prior to expiry of the period of admission, c.f. section 5.5. Supervisors

who fail to comply with the reporting requirements may be relieved of his/her supervisory duties.

The university college may establish special reporting requirements, if needed.

Section 9.2 Midterm evaluation

A midterm evaluation of the research project should normally be carried out in the third or fourth semester.

The candidate must present his/her work and will be evaluated by a group of at least two persons appointed by the programme committee. The evaluation group must give its opinion of the academic status and progress of the research project and provide feedback to the candidate, supervisors and institution.

If the evaluation group finds major weaknesses in the research project, measures to rectify the situation must be implemented.

Section 10 The doctoral thesis

Section 10.1 *Thesis requirements*

A doctoral thesis must be an independent research project that meets international standards with regard to ethical requirements, academic level and methodology used in the research field.

The thesis must contribute to the development of new knowledge and achieve a level meriting publication or as part of the discipline's research literature

The thesis may consist of a monograph or a compendium of several shorter manuscripts. If the thesis consists of several shorter manuscripts, an explanation of how these are interrelated must be included.

If an article has been produced in cooperation with other authors, the PhD candidate must follow the norms for co-authorship that are generally accepted within the academic community and in accordance with international standards. If the thesis consists mainly of articles, the candidate must normally be listed as the lead author on at least half of the articles.

A thesis containing articles written by more than one author or cooperating partner must include a signed declaration that describes the candidate's contribution to each of the articles.

It is the responsibility of the programme committee to decide what languages may be used in the doctoral thesis, c.f. section 13.1.

Section 10.2 *Manuscripts that may not be submitted*

Manuscripts or parts of manuscripts that have been approved as the basis for previous examinations or degrees may not be submitted for evaluation as part of the doctoral thesis unless they comprise a minor part of a thesis consisting of several related manuscripts.

However, data, analyses and methodologies from previous degrees may be used as the basis for the doctoral research project.

Published articles will not be approved for use in the doctoral thesis if more than five (5) years has passed from the date of publication to the date of admission. The central PhD committee may allow an exception to this rule in extraordinary cases.

The doctoral thesis may be submitted for evaluation to only one educational institution, c.f. section 13.1.

Section 11 Obligation to report on research results with commercial potential

The rights between cooperating institutions must be regulated in a written agreement.

When a PhD candidate is employed at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the university college's regulations relevant at the time must form the basis of the PhD candidate's obligation to report on the research results with commercial potential that he/she produced during the employment relationship.

When a PhD candidate has an external employer, the corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in a written agreement between Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the PhD candidate and the external employer.

For PhD candidates without an employer, the corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in the admission agreement between Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and the PhD candidate.

PART IV COMPLETION

Section 12 Evaluation

Section 12.1 *Basis for the evaluation*

The PhD degree is conferred on the basis of:

- an approved doctoral thesis
- approved completion of the required coursework
- an approved trial lecture on an assigned topic
- an approved public defence of the doctoral thesis

Section 12.2 *Time from submission to public defence*

Normally the time period between submission of the doctoral thesis for evaluation and the public defence of the thesis should not exceed five (5) months.

It is the responsibility of the main academic supervisor to notify the dean and the programme committee that the doctoral thesis will be submitted soon so that the necessary preparations can begin.

Section 13 Submission

Section 13.1 *Submission of the doctoral thesis*

The application for evaluation of the doctoral thesis may only be submitted after the

required coursework has been approved.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

- the doctoral thesis prepared in the approved format and in accordance with the university college's rules regarding the form and number of copies;
- documentation of approved completion of the required coursework
- required written permission, c.f. section 5.1.;
- declarations from co-authors when this is required pursuant to section 10.1;
- statement regarding whether the doctoral thesis is being submitted for evaluation for the first or second time;
- statement that the doctoral thesis has not been submitted for evaluation at another institution.

The programme committee may make an independent decision to deny an application for evaluation of the doctoral thesis if it is evident that the thesis does not meet sufficiently high standards of scientific quality and would therefore be rejected by an evaluation committee.

The doctoral thesis must be made available to the public no later than two weeks prior to the public defence, c.f. section 18.1.

Section 13.2 *Assessment of the application*

The programme committee assesses the application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis. Applications that do not fulfil the requirements stated in section 13.1 will be denied.

Section 14 **Appointment of the evaluation committee**

When the programme committee has approved an application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis, an expert committee comprised of at least three members who will evaluate the thesis and the public defence is appointed.

Committee members are subject to the provisions in section 6 of the Public Administration Act regarding impartiality.

The composition of the committee should normally be decided at the time of submission of the doctoral thesis.

The evaluation committee will normally be comprised so that:

- both genders are represented;
- at least one of the members is not affiliated with Western Norway University of Applied Sciences;
- at least one of the members is employed in his/her main position at an institution abroad;
- all the members hold a doctoral degree;
- the majority of the committee members are external.

If these criteria are not met, an explanation must be provided.

The programme committee nominate members for the expert committee. The proposal for the composition of the committee must explain the reasoning behind the selection of the members and how the committee as a whole covers the field(s) addressed in the doctoral thesis. The programme committee suggests one of the committee members or another person to serve as the committee's chairperson. The central PhD committee appoint the evaluating committee after recommendation from the programme committee.

The appointed supervisor and others who have contributed to the doctoral thesis may not be a member of the evaluation committee or administer its activities.

When required, the central PhD committee may appoint an alternate to sit on the evaluation committee.

The candidate will be notified of the proposal for the composition of the committee, and he/she may submit written comments no later than one week after the proposal has been made known to the candidate.

Section 15 Activities of the evaluation committee

Section 15.1 *Gathering of supplementary information*

The evaluation committee may ask to review the PhD candidate's basic data and any additional or clarifying information.

The evaluation committee may ask the academic supervisor to provide information about the supervision carried out and the work involved in the doctoral thesis.

Section 15.2 *Reworking of a submitted doctoral thesis*

The evaluation committee may, on the basis of the submitted doctoral thesis and any additional material, c.f. section 15.1, recommend that the programme committee permit the candidate to make minor revisions to the thesis before the committee submits its final report. The committee must provide a written list of the specific items that the candidate must rework.

If the programme committee allows minor revisions to the thesis, a deadline normally not exceeding three (3) months will be set for completing such revisions. A new deadline for submission of the committee's final report will also be set. The institution's decision pursuant to this paragraph may not be appealed by the PhD candidate.

If the committee finds that extensive changes related to the theory, hypothesis, material or methods used in the thesis are needed in order to deem the thesis worthy of a public defence, the committee must reject the thesis.

Section 15.3 *Report of the evaluation committee*

The evaluation committee determines whether the thesis is worthy of being defended for the PhD degree. The decision presented in the report and any dissenting views must be explained.

The committee's report must be submitted no later than three (3) months from the date when the committee received the thesis. If the committee allows reworking of the thesis, a new period commences upon resubmission of the thesis.

The committee's report is submitted to the programme committee, which forwards the report to the PhD candidate. The candidate is given ten (10) working days in which to submit written comments to the report. If the candidate does not wish to submit comments, he/she must notify the programme committee of this in writing as soon as possible.

Any written comments by the PhD candidate must be sent to the central PhD committee. The central PhD committee is responsible for taking the final decision on the matter in accordance with section 16.

Section 15.4 *Correction of formal errors in the doctoral thesis*

A thesis which has been submitted may not be withdrawn before the evaluation committee has determined whether it is worthy of being defended for the PhD degree.

After the PhD candidate submits the doctoral thesis for evaluation, he/she will be allowed to correct formal errors in the thesis. A list of the errors that the candidate wishes to correct (an errata list) must be attached to the application. The application to correct formal errors may be submitted only once, and no later than four (4) weeks prior to the committee's deadline for submission of its final report.

Section 16 **Institutional procedures related to the evaluation committee's report**

On the basis of the report by the evaluation committee, the central PhD committee determines whether the doctoral thesis is worthy of a public defence.

Unanimous committee decision

If the committee's decision is unanimous and the central PhD committee finds that the committee's report should be used as the basis for its final decision, the central PhD committee will take the final decision in accordance with the committee's report.

If the central PhD committee finds that there are grounds to doubt whether the committee's unanimous decision should be used as the basis for its final decision, the central PhD committee must request further clarification from the evaluation committee and/or appoint two new reviewers who will submit individual evaluations of the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual evaluations must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments.

The central PhD committee takes the final decision on the matter on the basis of the committee's report and the subsequent reviews.

Non-unanimous committee decision

If the committee's decision is not unanimous and the central PhD committee finds that there are grounds to use the majority's opinion as the basis for its final decision, the institution will take the final decision in accordance with the majority's view. If the

committee's decision is not unanimous and the central PhD committee finds there are grounds to consider using the minority's opinion as the basis for its final decision, the central PhD committee may request further clarification from the evaluation committee and/or appoint two new reviewers who will submit individual evaluations of the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual evaluations must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments. If both of the new reviewers agree with the majority's opinion in the original report by the committee, the majority's opinion must be followed.

The candidate will be informed of the outcome after procedures related to the statements by the new reviewers have been completed.

Section 17 Resubmission

A doctoral thesis that is not found to be worthy of a public defence may be re-evaluated in revised form no sooner than six (6) months after the initial rejection. A doctoral thesis may be re-evaluated only once.

In the event of resubmission, the PhD candidate must clearly state that the doctoral thesis was evaluated previously and was not found to be worthy of a public defence.

Section 18 Public availability of the doctoral thesis

Section 18.1 Requirements related to the printed doctoral thesis

When the doctoral thesis is found worthy of a public defence, the PhD candidate must submit the thesis to the university college in the approved format and in accordance with the rules of the university college, c.f. section 13.1.

The PhD candidate must submit a brief summary of the doctoral thesis in English and Norwegian. If the thesis is not written in English or Norwegian, the candidate must also submit a summary in the language in which the thesis is written. Like the thesis itself, the summary must be made available to the public.

Section 18.2 Public availability

The doctoral thesis must be made available to the public no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the public defence. The thesis should be made available in the form in which it was submitted for evaluation, or following revisions made on the basis of the committee's preliminary comments, c.f. section 15.2.

There can be no restrictions placed on a doctoral thesis being made publicly available, except in the event that a prior agreement has been reached concerning a delay in public access at an agreed upon date. Such a delay may be allowed so that the university college and any external parties which have partially or wholly funded the candidate's PhD studies can determine their interests in potential patents. An external party may not require that all or part of a doctoral thesis be withheld from the public domain, c.f. section 5.3.

In the event of publication of the doctoral thesis, the candidate must follow the applicable guidelines on the crediting of institutions. As a general rule, the institution must be listed as the author's address in the publication if the institution has made a necessary and

substantial contribution or laid a foundation so that the author could produce the published manuscript. The same author must also list other institutions if these in each case fulfil the requirement related to the institution's contribution.

Section 19 The doctoral examination

Section 19.1 *Trial lecture*

After the doctoral thesis has been submitted for evaluation, c.f. section 15, the PhD candidate must hold a trial lecture. The trial lecture is an independent part of the examination for the PhD degree and is held on an assigned topic. The purpose is to test the candidate's ability to acquire knowledge beyond the topic of the doctoral thesis and to convey this knowledge in a lecture situation.

The title of the trial lecture must be announced to the PhD candidate ten (10) days prior to the lecture. The topic of the lecture must not have a direct connection to the topic of the thesis.

The trial lecture is held in connection with the public defence, and the evaluation committee assigns the topic of the lecture and conducts the evaluation

The trial lecture must be held in the language in which the doctoral thesis is written, unless the central PhD committee approves the use of another language.

The evaluation committee is responsible for determining whether the trial lecture is approved or not approved. If the trial lecture is not approved, the reason for this must be explained.

The trial lecture must be approved before the public defence can be held.

If the evaluation committee does not approve the trial lecture, a new trial lecture must be held on a new topic no later than six (6) weeks following the first lecture. A new trial lecture may only be held once. The lecture must be evaluated to the extent possible by the same committee that evaluated the first lecture.

Section 19.2 *Public defence of the doctoral thesis*

The public defence of the doctoral thesis must take place after the trial lecture has been held and approved, and no later than two (2) months after the university college has found the thesis to be worthy of a public defence.

The time and location of the public defence must be announced at least ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled date.

The committee that originally evaluated the doctoral thesis must also evaluate the public defence. The public defence must be held in the language used in the thesis, unless the central PhD committee, on the recommendation of the evaluation committee, approves the use of a different language.

There will normally be two opposing speakers, or discussants, at the defence. These

two speakers must be external members of the evaluation committee and will be appointed by the central PhD committee.

The public defence will be chaired by the dean or a person authorised by the dean. The chair of the defence will give a brief explanation of the procedures relating to the submission and evaluation of the doctoral thesis, and the trial lecture. Then the PhD candidate will explain the purpose and findings of the doctoral research project. The first opposing speaker begins the questioning of the PhD candidate and the second opposing speaker concludes the questioning. After both opposing speakers have concluded their questioning, members of the audience will have the opportunity to comment. One of the opposing speakers concludes the questioning, and the chair of the defence concludes the defence proceedings.

The central PhD committee may decide to distribute the tasks normally assigned to the opposing speakers and the candidate in a different way.

The evaluation committee submits its report to the central PhD committee in which it explains how it has assessed the public defence of the thesis. The report must conclude whether the defence was approved or not approved. If the defence is not approved, the report must provide an explanation for this.

Section 20 Approval of the doctoral examination

The central PhD committee takes a decision on approval of the doctoral examination on the basis of the evaluation committee's report.

If the central PhD committee does not approve the public defence, the PhD candidate may defend the doctoral thesis once more only. A new defence can be held after six (6) months and must be evaluated to the extent possible by the same committee that evaluated the first defence.

Section 21 Conferral of the degree and diploma

Based on a statement by the central PhD committee that the required coursework, doctoral thesis and doctoral examination have been approved, the Doctor of Philosophy degree will be conferred on the candidate by rector.

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences issues the diploma. The diploma provides information about the academic training in which the candidate has participated. The university college determines what additional information is to appear on the diploma.

Section 22 Diploma Supplement

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences will issue a Diploma Supplement, i.e. an attachment to the PhD diploma, in keeping with the applicable guidelines.

PART V APPEALS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Section 23 Appeals

Section 23.1 *Appeal of a rejection of an application for admission, appeal of a decision*

to terminate a student's admission rights, and appeal of rejection of an application for recognition of parts of the required coursework

Rejection of an application for admission, a decision to terminate a student's admission rights, and rejection of an application for recognition of parts of the required coursework may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of sections 28 and following of the Public Administration Act. Reasoned appeal is sent to the central PhD committee. If the rejection is maintained, the appeal is sent to the appeals committee at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences for final decision.

Section 23.2 *Appeal of an examination as part of the required coursework*

Examinations taken as part of the required coursework may be appealed pursuant to section 5-2 "Complaints against procedural errors in connection with examinations" and section 5-3 "Complaints regarding marks awarded - right to explanation" of the Act relating to universities and university colleges.

A suspicion of plagiarism or cheating or an attempt to cheat must be handled in accordance with established routines for plagiarism and cheating at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

Section 23.3 *Appeal of a rejection of an application for evaluation, and rejection of a doctoral thesis, trial lecture or public defence*

Rejection of an application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis and a decision of non-approval of a doctoral thesis, trial lecture or public defence may be appealed pursuant to section 28 and following of the Public Administration Act. Reasoned appeal is sent to the central PhD committee. The central PhD committee may annul or change the decision if it sees the appeal as justified. If the central PhD committee does not take the appeal into account, it is sent to the board at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences for a decision in accordance with section 28 of the Public Administration Act. The administrative appeal body may try all aspects of the decision under appeal

If the administrative appeal body finds grounds for this, individual experts or a committee may be appointed to conduct an assessment of the evaluation that was carried out and the criteria on which the evaluation was based, or to conduct a new or supplementary expert evaluation.

Section 24 Guidelines and supplementary provisions

The university college board may determine guidelines and supplementary provisions within the scope of this regulation, and correspondent with suggestions from the relevant programme committee.

Section 25 Joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements

Section 25.1 *Joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements*

The university college may enter into an agreement with one or more Norwegian or foreign institutions to cooperate on joint degrees or cotutelle agreements.

With regard to cooperation on joint degrees and cotutelle agreements, an exception may be made to the other provisions in the regulation if it is necessary due to the regulations of

the cooperating institution. Such exceptions, both individually and as a whole, must be clearly justifiable.

Section 25.2 *Joint degrees*

The term “joint degree” is defined as a collaboration between two or more institutions in which the cooperating institutions as a group are responsible for admission, academic supervision, the conferral of the degree and other elements as described in this regulation. The collaboration is normally organised in the form of a consortium and is regulated by a contract between the consortium members. For a completed joint degree, a joint diploma is issued in the form of: a) a diploma issued by the consortium members as a group, b) a diploma issued by each of the consortium members, or a combination of a) and b).

An agreement to issue a joint degree is normally only entered into if there already exists an established, stable academic collaboration between Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and at least one of the other consortium members. The university college board is responsible for establishing detailed guidelines for cooperation on a joint degree, including templates for cooperation agreements, c.f. first paragraph.

Section 25.2 *Cotutelle agreements*

The term “cotutelle agreement” is defined as the joint academic supervision of PhD candidates and cooperation on doctoral training for PhD candidates. A cotutelle agreement must be entered into for each candidate and should be based on stable, academic institutional cooperation.

Section 25.3 *Requirements related to joint degrees and cotutelle agreements*

Admission requirements, the requirement that the doctoral thesis must be made available to the public, and the requirement that the public defence must be evaluated by an impartial committee cannot be waived.

Section 26 *Entry into force*

This regulation takes effect on 1 January 2017