Admission requirements and supplementary regulations for the PhD programme in Computer Science: Software Engineering, Sensor Networks, and Engineering Computing at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

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The section numbers and titles below refer to the corresponding sections in the Regulations for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

Distribution of responsibility

See description under part 1 of the PhD regulations and part 2 of the quality assurance system.

Section 5: Admission

Admission to the PhD programme in Computer Science takes places on a continuous basis throughout the year. The programme committee is responsible for the evaluation of submitted applications.

Admission requires that the applicant holds a master's degree within the information and communication technology or computing fields, such as a master's degree in informatics, computer science, software engineering, communication systems, engineering computing, scientific computing, or computational engineering. Candidates from other natural sciences or engineering disciplines holding a master's degree with a strong emphasis on ICT and computing may also qualify for admission to the programme.

Qualifying master's degree programmes includes the master's degree in software engineering offered jointly by Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and the University of Bergen, and the master's degree in communication systems offered by Western Norway University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with University of Oslo.

Admission into the programme requires that the applicant has obtained strong grades for both the master's thesis and the course work of the master's degree. Specifically, admission into the programme normally requires that the applicant has obtained:

- a grade of B (Norwegian scale) or better on the master's thesis,
- an average grade higher than C (Norwegian scale) on the coursework associated with the master's degree.

Section 8 Coursework

The programme committee is responsible for ensuring that the courses that constitute the training part of the PhD programme are offered on a regular basis to the PhD candidates enrolled in the

programme. In relation to this, the programme committee is responsible for maintaining a plan that specifies the elective courses that will be offered in the next two years.

Candidates are required to follow at least one of the elective courses offered in the programme of study.

The programme committee may approve up to 5 ECTS credits based on other activities undertaken by the candidate of relevance for the doctoral training. Approved activities include popular science dissemination, presentations at scientific workshops and conferences, participation in PhD summer/winter schools, and longer visits to other academic institutions. Credit awarding activities and the number of credits awarded are determined by the programme committee.

Section 9 Reporting

The PhD candidate and the supervisor(s) must submit an annual report to the programme committee detailing the progress on the coursework and the research project of the candidate. The programme coordinator must conduct an annual meeting with the candidate and the supervisor(s) assessing the progress and conducting planning of the doctoral training. The progress report and the meeting form the basis for the overall reporting to the programme committee.

Section 10 The doctoral thesis

The PhD thesis should be written in English. However, the programme committee may approve that the thesis will be written in other languages. If the candidate plans to write the thesis in a language other than English, this must be stated as part of the application for admission into the programme. A candidate may submit an application for changing the language during the course of the studies. An application for change of language must be accompanied by a recommendation from the supervisor(s).

The doctoral thesis may have the form either of a monograph or of a collection of papers published in, or submitted to, peer-reviewed international workshops, conferences or journals. In the latter case, at least one paper must have been published or accepted for publication in a high-quality journal or conference before submission of the doctoral thesis. A thesis based on a collection of papers must include an overview chapter that provides an introduction to the research field, clearly states the research questions and goals, provide an overview of the research results obtained, and positions the scientific results contained within the state-of-the art in the research field.