



Supplementary rules pertaining to the Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric)

Approved by the Noragric Research Committee 2015 and based on the PhD regulations at NMBU (by 15 May 2014).

ADMISSION

Section 5 Admissions

Section 5.1 Conditions for admission

- The PhD candidate shall have a research-based Master's degree relevant to environment and development studies.
- The candidate shall have a strong academic background, with B or above as the average grade of the Master's degree.
- The grade of the Master's thesis shall also be B or above.
- The minimum requirements in English: IELTS 7.0 or equivalent.

Section 5.2 Application for admission

- The general deadline for applying for admission is 1 April.
- All new candidates should start in August / September when Noragric's core course for PhD candidates runs (EDS 430).

Section 6.2 Contract period

- The stipulated period of the PhD education is a sum of 3 years.
- The funding period will depend on the terms of the scholarship (e.g., quota scholarship) or employment contract for PhD candidates.

IMPLEMENTATION

Section 7 Academic supervision

- The main supervisor must be employed at NMBU.
- The PhD candidate has one main supervisor and a minimum of one co-supervisor, to be formally appointed within six months after starting the PhD programme.
- The PhD candidate shall be part of a research cluster at Noragric. The main supervisor is responsible for assigning the candidate to the most relevant cluster.



- The PhD supervisor(s) can co-author one or more of the articles that the PhD thesis will comprise. Co-authorship is a useful way to learn and ensures more integration of the PhD candidate into the work of the PhD supervisor and the research group. The usual [Vancouver rules](#) for co-authorship apply. Supervisors are, however, *expected* to provide substantial inputs to all papers without necessarily becoming a co-author.
- The PhD candidate and the main supervisor shall meet regularly (e.g., monthly during the early stages and fortnightly during the final phase) to discuss the PhD plan and the progress of the thesis. The supervising committee and the PhD candidate should meet jointly at least every six months. The main supervisor is responsible for calling the meeting.
- In the early stages the form '*What can I expect from my candidate or supervisor*' should be completed by the candidate and the supervisor(s) and discussed together.

Section 8 Required coursework

- The courses taken as part of the PhD programme shall give a broad theoretical and methodical training at an advanced level, with a specialization within the field of the PhD thesis.
- The minimum sum of course credits is 30 ECTS. This includes three mandatory courses:
 - EDS415 Qualitative Methods in Development Studies (5 ECTS)
 - EDS430 Environment and Development Studies for and by PhD students (15ECTS)
 - Research ethics and philosophy of science (minimum 5 ECTS),
- If the PhD candidate has an insufficient background in relevant theories and methods, the Noragric Research committee can require that the candidate takes additional courses, for example, at the Master's (300) level.
- Courses approved for the PhD degree can be at either the 300 or 400 level at NMBU, or the equivalent if taken at institutions outside of NMBU.
- The course package is approved by the Noragric Research committee as part of the educational plan. The main supervisor may approve minor changes, such as replacement of an individual course. Larger changes must be approved by Noragric Research committee. The PhD coordinator should be informed of all changes.
- The completed course package (i.e. after taking the courses and before submitting the PhD thesis) is approved by the supervisor. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the final course package is in line with the approved educational plan with amendments.

Section 9 Reporting

Section 9.1. Reporting

- Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD): If the PhD candidate, through interviews, questionnaires, observations or other means, is gathering, registering, processing or



storing information about individuals (i.e. personal data), the project is likely to be subject to notification. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify NSD.

- **Annual progress report:** Must be submitted to the Head of Research and the PhD programme coordinator by 15 January each year.
- **Start seminar:** Must take place before 1 April.
 - Within 2 months after the start seminar, the candidate submits his/her final proposal and study plan to the Noragric Research committee for final admission.
 - See the document "[start seminar and final admission](#)" for details.
- **Mid-term seminar:** Should take place at the latest when there is one year of the regular PhD period left.
 - During the seminar, the candidate should present one or two draft papers and an outline of the dissertation as a whole.
 - After the seminar, the candidate will receive an [evaluation report written by the supervisor](#).
 - The candidate should respond in writing within two weeks to the Head of Research about how he/she intends to follow up the comments received.
- **Late-term seminar:**
 - The candidate is expected to present the introductory essay.
 - Within two weeks after the seminar, the candidate should submit a summary report of the comments received and include a completion plan for the remaining work on the thesis.

Section 10 PhD Thesis

- The format of the thesis can be a set of articles or a monograph.
- There is no fixed rule for the length of the PhD thesis; the overall quality is the main criterion for the decision by the evaluation committee. All articles should be publishable in well-recognized, peer-reviewed journals. In terms of quantity, the following [guidelines](#) apply:
 - The thesis consists of at least 3-4 articles in addition to the [introductory essay](#).
 - The PhD candidate ought to be the sole author of at least one article, in addition to the introduction.
 - The PhD candidate should normally be the main author of all articles, and must be the main author of at least three articles. An exception to the latter rule can be made for papers co-authored with other PhD candidates.
 - At least one of the papers should be published before the submission of the PhD thesis.
- The PhD candidate should publish in well-recognized, peer-reviewed journals. The candidate and supervisor should make sure that the journals selected for publication are at least level 1 in the [NSD database](#).
- The [introduction essay](#) shall provide an overview of the PhD thesis, outline the common research topics, theories and methods of the articles, and relate it to the broader literature and research field. An appropriate length is 50-80 pages.



COMPLETION

Section 14 Appointment of the evaluation committee

- The main supervisor suggests a PhD thesis evaluation committee, consisting of two external members (with no current, formal links to NMBU) and one internal member.
- The supervisor contacts the suggested members informally to confirm their interest and availability.
- The supervisor sends the [proposal for Evaluation Committee](#) to the Head of Research with a copy to the PhD coordinator.
- Head of Research approves the committee members and sends them a more formal request for a confirmation of interest.
- The PhD candidate is entitled to submit written comments on the composition of the committee before the proposal is forwarded to the Rector.
- When accepted, the department sends the proposal for the committee members to the Rector for approval, and formal letters of appointment are sent to the committee members.