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TO THE POSTGRADUATE STUDENT

The Faculty of Art and Design is one of the university-level units of art education in Finland. Its research concentrates on the development of ecologically and culturally sustainable design, art activities, and art education taking place in northern environments and communities. The artistic activity of the faculty combines the global perspective with northern orientation and cultural heritage. The research of the faculty of multidisciplinary is internationally on-line. In our research pluralist and multicultural art and design in northern areas is emphasized.

The Decree on University Degrees (794/2004) has entered into force in 1.8.2005. According to the decree it is possible to receive degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Arts upon completion of one's studies at branch of art. The postgraduate studies of the faculty are scientifically oriented. The doctoral thesis may also include an artistic production. At the Faculty of Art and Design the degree of Doctor of Arts contains 240 credits of studies, out of which the doctoral thesis is 180 credits and other postgraduate studies 60 credits. It takes usually four years to take a degree of Doctor of Arts.

Postgraduate studies can be taken in the faculty's educational areas, which are

- audiovisual media culture
- graphic design
- art education
- interior and textile design
- industrial design
- clothing design
- other area of art and design

As a postgraduate student of the Faculty of Art and Design you belong to the science-based general doctoral program and follow the curriculum of the faculty.

Besides of the science-based general doctoral program the University of Lapland has multidisciplinary doctoral programs to which postgraduate students have been accepted before 2020.

Further information concerning postgraduate studies for all the postgraduate students of the university offered by graduate school <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>.

Contact information of the Faculty of Art and Design:

Postal address University of Lapland, Faculty of Art and Design, Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi

Visiting address Yliopistonkatu 8

Phone 016-341 341 (exchange)

General information Chief of Administration Kaisa Kangas (supervisors, pre-examiners, opponents, depate permit)
 Head of Student Services Janette Tolppi (acceptance for postgraduate studies, selection process, guiding)
 Administrative Secretary Marjo Majava (arrangements of public examination, travel arrangements)
 contact information: firstname.lastname@ulapland.fi

1. OBJECTIVES OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

1.1. Objectives of postgraduate education and completing the degree

The Decree on University Degrees (794/04, amended 19 Dec. 2013), issued 19 August 2004, lays down provisions on scientific and artistic postgraduate university degrees. The Decree provides the following:

The aim of the scientific and artistic postgraduate education is that having completed the studies the student

- 1) *is well-versed in his/her own field of research and its social significance;*
- 2) *has acquired the knowledge and skills needed to apply scientific research methods independently and critically and to produce new scientific knowledge;*
- 3) *masters the development, basic problems, and research methods of his/her own field of research*
- 4) *has gained such a level of knowledge of the general theory of science and of other disciplines relating to his/her own field of research as enables him/her to follow developments in them.*
- 5) *has reached sufficient communication, language, and other skills to work in extensive and demanding expert and developer positions and to engage in international collaboration.*

In the field of art and design, the aim of postgraduate education leading to a doctorate may be, in addition to the aims listed in subsection 1, that the student gains knowledge and skills for independently creating methods of artistic representation, or products or performances which fulfil high artistic demands.

In the field of art education, the aim of postgraduate education may be, in addition to or instead of the aims referred to in subsection 2, that the student gains knowledge and skills for independently creating methods of artistic representation, or products or performances which fulfil high artistic demands.

To be awarded a doctorate, the student is to

- 1) *complete the required postgraduate studies;*
- 2) *demonstrate independent and critical thinking in the relevant field of research; and*
- 3) *compose a doctoral dissertation and defend it in public or provide other public demonstrations of scholarship and skill as prescribed by the university.*

According to Section 37 of the Universities Act (558/2009):

Eligible for studies leading to an academic or artistic postgraduate degree shall be a person who has completed

- 1) *an applicable higher university degree;*
- 2) *an applicable higher polytechnic degree;*
- 3) *an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.*

The university may require a student admitted to study for an academic or artistic postgraduate degree complete the necessary supplementary studies in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the studies.

Eligible for studies leading to a professional postgraduate degree shall be a person who

- 1) *has completed an applicable higher university or polytechnic degree or*
- 2) *has an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.*

Further provisions concerning eligibility for professional postgraduate degrees shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Eligible for studies referred to in this Section may also be a person whom the university judges otherwise to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.

Having completed the postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Art and Design, the student

- 1) *has become well-versed in his/her own field of research and understands its social significance;*
- 2) *is able to apply scientific research methods, produce new scientific knowledge, and/or independently create methods of artistic representation, or products or performances which fulfil high artistic demands;*

- 3) masters the development, basic problems, and research methods of his/her own field of research;
- 4) has gained such a level of knowledge of the general theory of science and of other disciplines relating to his/her own field of research as enables him/her to follow developments in them; and
- 5) has reached sufficient communication and language skills to work in extensive and demanding expert and developer positions and to engage in international collaboration.

The education is based on research and artistic activity as well as the relevant professional practices of the field.

1.2. Eligibility for postgraduate education

In the Faculty of Art and Design of the University of Lapland, scientific postgraduate education builds on a higher university degree in the educational field of art. Eligibility may also be granted to a person who has completed a higher university degree in another area and whose area of postgraduate degree is related to the faculty's fields of education and whose competence the faculty deems sufficient for postgraduate art education.

The primary task of the Faculty of Art and Design is to promote research, artistic activity, and societal interaction and to support postgraduate education in the field of art. As a rule, the postgraduate students of the faculty complete the degree of Doctor of Arts. In special cases, the right to complete the degree of Doctor of Philosophy can be granted to a person who has completed a basic degree in an educational area other than art at a Finnish institute of higher education or a degree corresponding to a Finnish basic degree at a foreign institute of similar status. A person applying to postgraduate studies has to mark in Study Bath system the right of which degree he/she applies to. Before granting eligibility to a student for postgraduate education, the faculty verifies that the completed degree provides sufficient readiness for postgraduate studies in the educational field of art.

A person who has completed abroad a degree corresponding to a higher degree can be granted the right to complete a postgraduate degree, provided that he/she has sufficient readiness for postgraduate studies and that the faculty can appoint an instructor.

2. APPLYING FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Eligibility for completing a postgraduate degree is requested from the faculty that mainly deals with the discipline of the research. The aim of the admittance is to produce researchers and other high-level experts out of students who are skilled, motivated, and committed to research and postgraduate studies.

The selection process is specifically focused on assessing the applicant's scientific thinking, proficiency in the central concepts and models of his/her field, and ability to define and solve problems. When the research contains an artistic production, the selection also focuses on artistic know-how, documentation of the artistic process, and the way in which the artistic production is related to the research argumentation.

The right to study for a postgraduate degree in the Faculty of Art and Design is mainly applied twice a year: in the autumn and in the spring. You find the exact times <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>. The application form for postgraduate studies is filled in in the Study bath -system. Likewise, the attachments are sent within the application time; information in Study bath -system. More specific selection criteria and application instructions are found in Study bath -system.

After the end of access time the faculty prepares a summary of the postgraduate study applications and communicates it together with the application materials for information and statements to the professors of the faculty. It is important that an applicant mentions in his/her application the name of the professor he/she has been in connection with dealing with the guidance of postgraduate studies. After having got the statements the Board of Professors of the faculty handles accepting for postgraduate studies and nomination of instructors. The Dean decides on the admission to postgraduate studies after the Board of Professors have handled it and on the presentation of the Head of Study Services. The assessment of the application centers on the research plan.

The right to study begins either on January 1. or August 1. One can get the right to study at other time also in case there is a special reason for that. The reason may be e.g. a remarkable research funding, which requires the

right for postgraduate studies. One applies for the postgraduate studies of the faculty to which branch one's research mainly belongs to.

Eligibility is not granted if the applicant does not fulfil the terms of admission. Admission may also be denied due to insufficient supervision or financing resources or because the available expertise is not applicable to the applicant's research topic.

The applicant for postgraduate studies is recommended already in the planning phase to consult the professor whose expertise is most closely related to the research topic in order to discuss the research topic, research plan, and other issues related to the postgraduate studies. This is to ensure that the faculty has the needed resources for instruction and that the research topic is linked to the profile of the faculty and university. Please mention in your application the name of the professor you have been in connection with.

Contact persons (contacting by e-mail: firstname.lastname@ulapland.fi):

Associate Professor Ashley Colley, industrial design -17.9.2022
 Professor Jaana Erkkilä-Hill, visual arts, free from duty -30.4.2024
 Professor Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja, art and culture studies
 Professor Mirja Hiltunen, visual art education
 Professor Jonna Häkkinen, industrial design, free from duty -17.9.2022
 Professor Timo Jokela, applied visual arts, visual art education
 Associate Professor Kalle Lampela, visual arts -30.4.2024
 Professor Satu Miettinen, design research, service design
 Professor Silja Nikula, graphic design
 Professor Ana Nuutinen, fashion and clothing
 Professor Heidi Pietarinen, textile design
 Professor Mauri Ylä-Kotola, audiovisual media culture

2.1. Tasks of the supervising professor

The supervising professor is a professor working for the faculty who gives the statement of admission to postgraduate studies and advises the postgraduate student in issues related to the doctoral dissertation work. The supervising professor may also function as the first or second instructor.

The tasks of the supervising professor are as follows:

- gives a statement of admission and on the supervision of the thesis work
- ensures that the supervision agreement is made
- together with the postgraduate student, asks the faculty to appoint a scientific instructor for the thesis work and, when necessary, an artistic production instructor
- negotiates the study plan with the postgraduate student, handles the possible credit transfers, and gives a statement on the study module included in the doctoral degree before it is confirmed by the faculty council (together with the instructor, if necessary).
- is in contact with the possible external instructor
- if necessary, makes a proposal to the faculty council to appoint a dissertation committee before the opponent(s) are invited
- makes a proposal to publish the dissertation in the Acta Universitatis Lapponiensis series

2.2. Appointing instructors for postgraduate studies

The instructional relationship in the postgraduate studies must always be made official, which also makes it public. The official status also gives the instructor the right to be heard in selecting the preliminary examiner and opponent(s). The decision of the instructor(s) is made by the Dean on the presentation of the Chief of Administration after the Board of Professors has handled the postgraduate students accepted. The decision requires a writ-

ten consent from both the instructor and the student as well as information of primary and secondary instructor in case several instructors are appointed

The instructor may be a professor, docent, or a person holding a doctoral degree who is academically and/or artistically competent and knowledgeable in the relevant field. Depending on the nature of the dissertation, a sufficient number of instructors shall be appointed. At least one of them must represent the faculty's field of education, and at least one of them must have a doctoral degree.

The personal instructor has a central role in postgraduate studies. The instructor must support the student in conducting scientific research or in realizing an artistic production and provide study counselling in general. According to good instruction practice, the instructors communicate with each other and share their responsibilities when necessary.

The postgraduate student must participate in instruction regularly and inform the instructor about the progress of the research. The Faculty of Art and Design follows the recommendations of doctoral thesis instruction practice <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

An instruction agreement is made for thesis instruction. It defines the responsibilities, duties, and commitment of the instructor(s) and student as well as other noteworthy issues. The instruction agreement <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

The postgraduate student must also make a personal study plan. It is appended to this guide and can be found at <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

The instructor decides on credit transfer and substitution of studies. If the instructor is not a faculty member, other studies are agreed on with the supervising professor.

2.3. Decision on the application and rectification request

Applicants admitted to pursue postgraduate studies are informed about the decision personally by letter. Also rejected applicants are informed of the decision and its grounds. Those disagreeing with the decision may submit a written rectification request to the Dean within 14 days from the decision.

2.4. Registering at the university as a postgraduate student and termination of the right to postgraduate studies

Having received the right to complete a postgraduate degree, the student registers as a postgraduate student of the Faculty of Art and Design at the Student Services of the university (visiting address Yliopistonkatu 8). The postgraduate student must remain registered as an attending student throughout the studies. When registering, the postgraduate is to inform whether he/she aims to study in the general doctoral programme of the University of Lapland or in one of the university's multidisciplinary, thematic doctoral programmes (Culture-centered Service Design, Northern Cultures and Sustainable Natural Resource Politics, or Communities and Changing Work).

If a postgraduate student wants to give up his/her right to have postgraduate studies, he/she must do an official announcement to the study services of the university. After this one can apply for the position of a postgraduate student by normal application procedure.

3. CONTENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

In the Faculty of Art and Design the scope of the Doctor of Arts degree is 240 credits: the thesis adds up to 180 and other postgraduate studies to 60 credits. The doctoral dissertation must be relevant and valuable in terms of

research in the educational field of art. It must also demonstrate the candidate's capability of producing new research-based knowledge independently. The dissertation may include an artistic production. The Doctor of Arts degree is normally completed in four years.

3.1. Artistic production as part of the doctoral thesis

The artistic production must be an integral part of the thesis. It can be e.g. an exhibition, a product development project, a teaching production, or a production concept.

The postgraduate student is responsible for recording the artistic production. The preliminary examiners must be able to review the recorded material after the original presentation.

The postgraduate student must always inform the instructor of the timetable, to which the student and the preliminary examiner (appointed later) must commit themselves.

The postgraduate student always takes care of the invitations concerning the artistic production. The invitations must be delivered well in advance to the preliminary examiners, faculty council members, and presenters. During publication, it must be mentioned that the artistic production is related to a doctoral dissertation.

3.2. Article-based dissertation

In the scientific postgraduate education of the Faculty of Art and Design, a dissertation may be based on articles. In such cases the faculty accepts as a dissertation a required number of scientific publications or manuscripts accepted for publication and dealing with an integrated set of problems, and a summary thereof.

The publications may include co-authored publications if the author's independent contribution to them can be demonstrated. Co-authored publications must include a report on each candidate's contribution to the work. The report can be appended to the end of the articles.

An article-based dissertation must include a sufficiently extensive introduction combining the articles into a comprehensive scientific entity with an integrated set of problems and scientific relevance in the branch. The introduction must also include the methods and results of the research.

The number of articles is not crucial in itself. Instead, the scientific contribution realized through the articles, introduction, and summary is essential. The recommended number of articles is 3 – 5 high-level international or Finnish refereed articles, of which at least one must be a Publication Forum level 1 article or higher. The author must be the only or the first author in at least three of the articles. The articles must be published in respected publications of the related discipline after admission to the postgraduate studies.

In the evaluation of the aggregate, attention is paid to the publishing forum and to the way in which the articles and introduction form an in-depth research entity. The Teaching and Research Council of the University of Lapland has laid down recommendations for the dissertation process. They also include recommendations for more detailed criteria concerning article-based dissertations.

3.3. Other degree studies 60 credits

The degree of Doctor of Arts contains in addition to the dissertation research and a potential artistic production 60 credits of other studies. The postgraduate may study either in the faculty-specific general doctoral programme or choose studies widely from the teaching offerings of the graduate school. Further information <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

Other studies of the degree are decided as follows:

UTAT0100 General Studies in Researcher Skills 20 cr.

UTAT0200 Studies related to the field of research 20 cr.

- UTAT02001 Introductory seminar to researcher studies
- UTAT02002 Research seminars in the educational field of art
- UTAT02003 Other Studies supporting the topic of research

UTAT0300 Studies supporting the topic of research

UTAT0100 General Studies in Researcher Skills 20 cr.

Content: A student chooses General Studies in Researcher skills by him/herself and they can be e.g.:

- philosophy of science and research ethics
- writing scientific texts for domestic and international forums
- presentation and argumentation in scientific and artistic communities
- planning art and science projects

Studies on researcher skills are offered by the Faculty of Art and Design, but they can also be chosen from other faculties of the University of Lapland as well as from other universities, according to one's own needs and interests. The graduate school of the University of Lapland offers also research skills studies of the subject. Current curriculum <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>. General Studies in Researcher Skills correspond the Philosophy of Science and Researcher Skills studies of thematic doctoral programs.

UTAT0200 Studies related to the field of research 20 cr.

Content: A student chooses Studies related to the field of research by him/herself and they can be e.g.:

- own area's information theory and philosophy
- own area's methodology studies
- own area's researcher seminars or graduate school seminars

Studies related to one's own field of research support the postgraduate student's ability to understand and participate in the academic international discourse of his/her field. When necessary, the emphasis between the studies can be fine-tuned by reviewing the study plan with the instructor. If the instructor is not a member of the Faculty of Art and Design, the review is made with the supervising professor.

UTAT0200 Studies related to the field of research studies contain the following studies, which are free to choose:

- UTAT02001 Introductory seminar to researcher studies 2 cr.
- UTAT02002 Research seminars in the educational field of art 10 cr.
- UTAT02003 Other studies of field of research 1-20 cr.

UTAT02001 Introductory seminar to researcher studies 2 cr.

Content: The introductory seminar is an annual assembly of new postgraduates of the Faculty of Art and Design allowing them to discuss issues, present themselves, and to network in the educational field of art. The seminar orients the participants to research studies and researcher's work as well as to the practices of academic and artistic research.

Objectives: The objective is to provide a compact introduction to the basic researcher skills and practices for fresh postgraduates. The students learn to comment on their research plans and processes and to present them to various types of research communities, they examine the practices related to the publication of research and artistic work, they revisit the basics of summarizing, and they acquaint themselves with the research areas of their faculty and the university. The seminar provides a sound basis for multidisciplinary research collaboration within the faculty.

Working method: The seminar is a compact package (takes place on a Friday afternoon and Saturday). The seminar work covers lectures, presentations, essays, and team work.

Evaluation: pass/fail

Scope: 2 cr.

Target group: postgraduate students of the Faculty of Art and Design

Teachers in charge: faculty professors

UTAT02002 Research seminars in the educational field of art 10 cr

Content: In the research seminars of the degree programmes the postgraduates present their own research and its various phases. The seminars prepare the students for functioning as members of the research community and of the artistic research community. The seminar work is targeted at completing the dissertation.

Objectives: The seminars provide a strong basis for participating in the scientific and art-related discussions taking place in the research areas of the degree programmes. The aim is to strengthen the students' skills in academic presentation. The seminar work acquaints the students with the scientific networks and forums of the research areas of the degree programmes. The work links the postgraduate's research with the activity of the faculty and supports the student in completing the research process.

Working method: Seminars, workshops, and writing and commenting academic texts

Evaluation: pass/fail

Scope: 10 cr.

Target group: postgraduate students of the educational field of art

Teachers in charge: faculty professors

UTAT0300 Studies supporting the topic of research 20 cr.

Content: Studies related to the topic of research may encompass participation in domestic or international seminars or conferences either as a participant or as a presenter of an article. The studies supporting the topic of research may also include critical literature reviews and minor subject studies. The studies are defined in advance with the instructor. If the instructor is not a faculty member, the other degree studies are defined with the supervising professor.

Credits received from different types of performance (e.g. articles, presentations):

- literature summary as an essay or examination (scope of book 250 pages) = 2 cr.
- essay of one's own research topic, 4 pages = 1 cr.
- participation and text presentation in a seminar (e.g. graduate school) = 2 – 3 cr.
- participation and product presentation at an art event = 2 – 3 cr.
- seminar abroad and text = 4 cr.
- art event and product presentation abroad = 4 cr.
- text in a domestic or international publication = 2 – 6 cr.
- art production in domestic or international art event = 2 – 6 cr.
- article in a domestic or international refereed publication = 8 – 12 cr.
- large-scale art production in a high-level domestic or international curated art event = 8 – 12 cr.

4. EXAMINATION PROCEDURES OF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

4.1. Preliminary examination procedure

4.1.1. Preliminary examination of a dissertation manuscript

Before starting the preliminary examination procedure, the instructor estimates whether the manuscript is ready to be offered for preliminary examination. The instructor is responsible if an unfinished manuscript is put forward in the examination procedure. The instructor must negotiate with the supervising professor on commencing the preliminary examination procedure and consider whether evaluating the manuscript requires the opinion of another expert on the same topic or field of research. After this, the instructor recommends submitting the manuscript for preliminary examination. The instructor(s), supervising professor, chief of administration / head of student affairs, and, when necessary, another representative of the field negotiate on suitable pre-examiners.

Having heard the instructor, the faculty council appoints at least two pre-examiners for the dissertation on the basis of the student's application. An instructor cannot act as a pre-examiner. Before appointing the preliminary examiners, the doctoral candidate is given the opportunity to give a statement on the possible incapacity of the proposed preliminary examiners.

When delivering the preliminary examination application to the faculty office, the student must also deliver three copies of the dissertation manuscript or of the article-based dissertation's articles and introduction as well as the summary of the manuscript.

The preliminary examiners must give their statement within two months after having received the manuscript. For a special reason the preliminary examiner may be given three months time for giving the statement. They must state whether the dissertation meets the criteria for granting permission to a public examination. The purpose of the pre-examination is to ensure that the dissertation manuscript fulfils the criteria for scientific research and writing. The pre-examiners must justify their statement. The preliminary examination statement cannot be conditional in such a way that amendments suggested in it would be a precondition for giving permission to a public examination. A preliminary examiner may, even if amendments are proposed, recommend granting permission to a public examination if making the amendments is not a prerequisite for approving the dissertation. If permission to a public examination is denied in the pre-examination statement, the manuscript returns to the instruction process. When the preliminary examination procedure has failed, the doctoral candidate may request for a new preliminary examination when the amendments suggested in the rejecting preliminary examination statement or other amendments have been made and the instructor recommends starting the preliminary examination procedure.

Prior to the faculty council proceedings, the postgraduate student is given the opportunity to respond to the preliminary examination statement.

4.1.2. Preliminary examination of an artistic production as part of the dissertation

Before the beginning of the preliminary examination, the instructor of the artistic part assesses whether the artistic production is ready to be offered for preliminary examination. The instructor must negotiate with the supervising professor on commencing the pre-examination. Then the instructor grants the student permission to publish the artistic production and delivers the permission to the faculty, after which at least one or, when necessary, two pre-examiners are appointed to the artistic production. Normally, all the parts of the artistic production are assessed by the same pre-examiner(s). The instructor must authorize the publication of each part separately.

The pre-examiners of the artistic production must be able to form their opinion on the scientific part of the dissertation as well as on the relationship between the scientific and the artistic part in terms of content and scope and the way in which they are connected. When the research contains an artistic production, the assessment focuses on artistic know-how, documentation of the artistic process, and the way in which the artistic production is related to the research argumentation. The postgraduate student must append a report to the preliminary examination application. Based on the report, the preliminary examiners can form an opinion of the status of the artistic part in the dissertation.

The preliminary examiners of an artistic production must give their statements within two months after having received each production. For a special reason the preliminary examiner may be given three months time for giving the statement. They must give a statement on whether they recommend approving the artistic part's inclusion into the dissertation. If the artistic part includes several productions (e.g. a series of exhibitions) the faculty council handles the statements on each part in a single faculty council meeting. Based on these statements, a decision is made to either approve or reject the artistic production as part of the dissertation. The statements correspond to proposing permission to a public examination for the scientific part. Prior to the faculty council proceedings, the postgraduate student is given the opportunity to respond to the preliminary examination statement.

4.2. Permission to a public examination

After receiving statements from the preliminary examiners recommending permission to a public examination, the postgraduate student must apply for the permission from the faculty council. The application must contain the dissertation manuscript or the article-based dissertation's articles and their introduction as well as a summary of the dissertation manuscript. The faculty gives permission to a public examination and prescribes the day and place of a public examination.

When planning the day of a public examination one has to consider the instructions of the doctoral school dealing with publishing the doctoral thesis. According to the instructions one has to reserve at least two months time for the publishing process. The postgraduate student has to be in contact with the doctoral school, which e.g. reserves an art editor to the doctoral thesis. The doctoral thesis has to be taken to the art editor at the latest 7 weeks before the public examination.

More specific information <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

4.3. Opponents and grading of dissertations

After granting permission to a public examination, the faculty council appoints one or two opponents and a custos as well as the day and place of a public examination. Before the opponent(s) and custos are appointed, the doctoral candidate is given an opportunity to give a written statement on the issue to the faculty council.

Within three weeks after the public examination, the opponent provides the faculty council with a justified written statement of either approving or rejecting the dissertation. If there are several opponents, they may also give a joint statement. The statement must express clearly whether the opponent recommends rejecting or approving the dissertation; in the latter case, the statement must also include a proposal for a grade if a separate dissertation committee has not been appointed.

An approved dissertation is graded according to the decision of the faculty council in 17.3.2016: pass with distinction, pass, and fail.

Grading a dissertation *pass with distinction* requires that the dissertation is of outstanding quality and represents leading research in its field. Regardless of the form of the dissertation, the grading is always done on the basis of the entire work.

The following issues are considered in grading:

- 1) The scientific significance of the research and the significance of a possible artistic, product development, or production part
- 2) Innovation used in defining the topic and the research problem
- 3) The theoretical approach and processing of the possible artistic, product development, or production part
- 4) The coverage and processing of the material
- 5) The methods used
- 6) The results and the credibility
- 7) The conclusions and discussion
- 8) The functionality of the composition and presentation
- 9) Defending the work at the public examination

The grade *pass with distinction* requires the following:

- The dissertation has exceptional scientific merit, and in an international comparison its possible artistic, product development and production parts are of particularly high quality according to all salient assessment criteria.
- The author has a critical and innovative approach and the work demonstrates an ability to organize theoretically and/or artistically extensive clusters of issues and problems.
- The results have exceptional significance within the discipline, and the observations and conclusions are essentially fresh. As part of a research group, the author's contribution is significant and clearly defined.
- The articles of an article dissertation have been published in esteemed international scientific series or in other comparable refereed publications. At least one article has been published on Publication Forum level 1 and one article on level 2 or 3.
- The presentation is of high standard and unique, and the linguistic style and referencing system do not leave room for complaint.
- The dissertation was defended excellently at the public examination.

The grade *pass* requires the following:

- The research questions, theoretic background, theoretical frame, methodology, and the possible empirical material demonstrate a good command of the field and adherence to ethically sustainable principles. The dissertation forms a scientifically convincing whole and the possible artistic, product development, and production parts are of high standard in light of all the relevant assessment criteria.
- The author has a critical and innovative approach and an ability to organize theoretically and/or artistically extensive clusters of issues and problems.
- The results produce fresh knowledge to the field of research. The observations and conclusions are new. The extent of the author's own part is sufficient and it can be clearly demonstrated.
- The articles (3–5 pieces) of an article dissertation have been published in esteemed domestic and/or international conferences, scientific series, or other refereed publications of high standard. At least one of the articles has Publication Forum rating 1, and the author is the only or first author of at least three of the articles.
- The author defended the dissertation successfully at the public examination.

The grade *fail* refers to the following:

In light of the assessment criteria, the work has many grave deficiencies without a sufficient supply of compensatory merits. The dissertation is not a coherent work based on independent study. It does not produce new knowledge or has serious deficiencies in several of the following areas: the objectives and delineations are unclear; the work does not yield a clear contribution; the theoretical frame, empirical part, possible artistic parts, or the product development projects have serious deficiencies or problems; a critical analysis is missing or it is inadequate; there are serious deficiencies in defining the core concepts and/or in justifying the choices on which the work is based.

Artistic productions are not graded separately because they are assessed as part of and relative to the whole dissertation.

4.4. Publishing the dissertation and artistic production

The dissertation must be published at the latest ten days prior to its public examination. The Dean may reduce this period for specific reasons.

If the dissertation includes an artistic production, the postgraduate student must announce at the latest ten days prior to the public examination where the artistic production or a recording thereof can be seen. The information must be reported to the faculty office and the Corporate Communications unit of the university.

Copies of the statement(s) given by the opponent(s) are submitted to the doctoral candidate and he/she is given an opportunity to present a written reply before the faculty council's proceedings.

4.5. Dissertation committee

At the supervising professor's proposal, the faculty council may appoint a dissertation committee to prepare a proposal for the grade. The dissertation committee is appointed before the opponents are nominated. The dissertation committee may comprise e.g. the opponent(s), custos, dissertation instructor, professor of the relevant subject, and an outside expert. The members of the dissertation committee must attend the public examination.

The dissertation committee will deliver a well-grounded proposal to the faculty council. The proposal complements the statement of the opponent(s) and supports either the approval or the rejection of the dissertation. If it supports approval, a grade proposal is included as well.

4.6. Approval of the dissertation

The faculty council either approves or rejects the dissertation and decides on its grade.

Should one disagree with the evaluation, a written rectification request may be sent to the faculty council. If unsatisfied with the rectification decision, one may appeal to the appellate committee for an amendment.

4.7. Doctor's degree certificate

To apply for the doctor's degree certificate, the following form is used (<http://www.ulapland.fi/Suomeksi/Yksikot/Taiteiden-tiedekunta/Opiskelu/Lomakkeet>), including an attached certificate of the fact that all required studies have been completed (transcript). The application is to be delivered to the office of the faculty. The certificate is granted by the Dean's decision.

5. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The updated postgraduate degree requirements will take effect on 1 August 2015.

Postgraduate students admitted to the Faculty of Art and Design before 31 December 2010 may choose to complete the other studies of the Doctor of Arts degree according to the curriculum confirmed by the faculty council on 15 June 2006. Postgraduate students admitted to the Faculty of Art and Design before 1 August 2015 may choose to complete the other studies of the Doctor of Arts degree according to the curriculum confirmed by the faculty council on 16 September 2010.

6. GUIDELINES FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Information concerning informing about the public examination, preparing for the public examination and the protocol of the event, dressing for the public examination, number and submission of dissertation copies and grants <https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Research/Doctoral-education>

Postgraduate study guide of the Faculty of Art and Design,
handled in the Board of Professors and accepted in the Faculty Council in 16.4.2020.

