Approved by the Faculty Council meeting of the Faculty of Art and Design on 17 March 2016

**Grading scale of the dissertations of the Faculty of Art and Design**

The grades given for dissertations are *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.

The grading scale of dissertations takes effect on 1 January 2017.