

Opasraportti

KTK - Doctoral Studies 2009-2011 (2008 - 2011)

Doctoral Education at the Faculty of Education

Doctoral education refers to researcher education aiming at a scientific postgraduate degree. Eligibility for postgraduate education is possessed by a person with an applicable higher academic degree, with a foreign education that qualifies him/her for equivalent higher education studies in the country in question or who is otherwise found by the university to have sufficient knowledge and competence to pursue the studies (Universities Act 1997 /645; § 18a(3)). Admission to postgraduate education presupposes that the university is able to establish that the degree or education completed by the applicant provides sufficient qualifications for postgraduate studies in education. Postgraduate education is well worth considering, if the student's achievement in graduate studies was good and if s/he is interested in pursuing more demanding scientific research and studies in the field of his/her major subject. If a student applies for the right to pursue postgraduate studies and started his/her studies for a Master's degree in 2005 or later, it is required that his/her Master's thesis must have been awarded the grade cum laude approbatur or better. The ability to draw up a scientific research plan can be thought of as an essential requirement to obtain the right to pursue the studies.

On his/her own initiative, the student may already participate in the work of one of the research groups at the faculty before s/he applies for the right to pursue postgraduate studies.

Application for the Right to Pursue Postgraduate Studies

The application process for the right to pursue postgraduate studies is in two phases: the negotiation phase followed by the actual application phase.

The faculty recommends participation in an orientation course before submitting an application. Participation in "Orientation to postgraduate studies" helps the student to start with his/her studies and also provides information on the application procedure and the areas of research in the faculty.

Negotiation phase

A student planning to do postgraduate studies shall construct a preliminary personal study plan and research plan, after which s/he shall discuss his/her plans with the professor of his/her major subject and the supervisors (if available). It is evaluated in these discussions if any additional studies should be taken to complement the education so far received by the student, and if the research topic is such that supervision in its field can be given in the faculty's research groups. The availability of a supervisor for the student's research is also discussed.

Application phase

The applicant shall draw up an application for postgraduate education including the following documents:

- a) application for postgraduate education
- b) personal study plan
- c) research plan
- d) copies of certificates/diplomas on previous studies

Before submitting the application, the student must have carried out preliminary negotiations with a professor at the faculty. After these negotiations, the student should compose the application including his/her contact information. The revised personal study plan drawn up based on the above negotiations shall be included, indicating how you intend to carry out the doctoral studies referred to in the curriculum and how your studies are scheduled to proceed. The application shall also include a research plan presenting the theoretical and methodological basis of the research, research problems and materials as well as a publication plan and implementation schedule. The construction of the research plan requires good familiarity with literature on the field and research on the topic. Proof of a degree or other studies providing the basis for the eligibility to pursue the studies must also be appended to the application, including copies of any relevant certificates.

The application shall be addressed to the Faculty of Education, P.O. Box 2000, FIN-90014 UNIVERSITY OF OULU, Finland.

Application period

Applications for doctoral studies are accepted on two occasions every academic year. The deadlines for application are March 31 and October 31.

Right to pursue studies

The faculty's Postgraduate Education Committee discusses the applications for postgraduate education two or three times during each term. The decision on approval is made by the dean based on the committee's proposal. When an applicant's right to pursue studies is considered, the professor's statement on the plan is taken into account with special attention to whether or not the topic of the research plan is connected with research being carried out in the faculty. It is also required that the applicant has had preliminary negotiations with the possibly available supervisors.

The right to study is granted for the Doctor's degree but it also includes the right to take the Licentiate degree. A degree supervisor and thesis supervisor(s) are appointed for the student at the same time. The degree supervisor shall be the professor of the major subject, who accepts the set of studies to be completed for the degree. The details of the studies are to be discussed with the thesis supervisor. If the thesis supervisor is someone other than the professor of the major subject, the student shall also negotiate with him/her on his/her research plan and agree on a supervision relationship. The right to pursue postgraduate studies for a degree is granted by the dean's decision. This decision does not constitute a confirmation of the study and research plan.

Curriculum

The faculty's curriculum for doctoral education defines the main goals of doctoral education, the principles of its supervision, the structure, contents and assessment criteria of the Doctor's degree, and essential procedures related to the completion of the degree in terms of study administration.

Goals of doctoral education

Scientific and artistic postgraduate education is enacted in the Government Decree on University Degrees (19.8.2004/794) that was enforced on August 1, 2005. According to section 21 of the decree, the goal of doctoral education is for the postgraduate student to develop a motivation for scientific research and development of his/her discipline.

The postgraduate student develops an ability and readiness to analyse the status of and needs for development in the educational sciences. The aim is that the student should be able to perceive reality theoretically and observe it empirically.

A person with a postgraduate education

- is able to apply independently and critically the methods of scientific research in his/her own field of research,
- is familiar with the historical development, basic problems and research methods of his/her field of research,
- learns to understand and follow educational research results and developments in the field.

In addition to these goals, the student can also choose a professional orientation and develop his/her own professional expertise.

Supervision in doctoral education

The supervision of doctoral education at the Faculty of Education is based on a supervision agreement, supervisory discussion, the student's activity and work in a supervision group.

Supervision agreement

A supervision relationship is based on a cooperation relationship, the nature of which is expressed in the agreement defining this relationship. The faculty recommends that a supervision agreement should always be signed. The agreements are processed by the Postgraduate Education Committee.

The thesis supervisor may be an adjunct professor or professor, while a person who has completed a Doctor's degree may be appointed a second supervisor. The student shall provide an annual report to the supervisor on his/her progress in studies and research work. If changes related to scheduling, for instance, need to be made to the

above plans at a later date, they must be renegotiated and the plans shall be revised together with the thesis supervisor, if necessary.

Supervisory discussion

The supervisory discussion is the most important component in the supervision agreement. Issues related to the supervision relationship should be consciously reconsidered throughout the various phases of the supervision process. This is also important because when the work is in progress, the issues emerging as important vary. It is not even possible to agree on all the factors influencing the progress of the work when the supervision relationship has only just begun.

Suggested themes for the supervisory discussion:

- supervisory themes related to special questions in the student's own discipline (problem statement, data acquisition, implementation, reporting etc.)
- general issues characteristic of all supervision (motivation, reflection, significance and processing of conflicts, cooperation, rules of publication)

Suggested role of supervisory discussion:

- to be implemented at least once during each term when the student is active
- the student shall carry out the development measures agreed on in the supervisory discussion in his/her thesis work as scheduled by the supervisor and student
- the supervisory discussion shall contribute to the progress of the student's work on his/her thesis

Supervision group

A supervision group assembled together with the student and supervisor is appointed for each thesis work. The supervision group shall be publicised before the work is introduced to the Faculty Council for an official examination. The supervision group shall comment on the thesis before its official examination. The group also helps the student if s/he should face any conflicts or problems. The Postgraduate Education Committee confirms the appointment of a supervision group.

Structure of the doctor's degree in the field of education

According to section 22 of the Government Decree on University Degrees, for a postgraduate student to complete the doctoral degree, s/he shall complete the studies stipulated for postgraduate education, show independent and critical thinking in his field of research, write a doctoral thesis and submit it for a public examination (see Table 6). The extent of a doctoral degree in the field of education is 240 ECTS credits. The doctoral studies consist of 1) the doctoral thesis and its public examination, 2) major subject studies in education and 3) minor subject studies and other studies supporting the development of expertise. A written application for confirmation of the degree shall be submitted to the Faculty of Education. An entry on the grade of the doctoral thesis is made in the certificate of Doctor of Philosophy (Education).

Structure of the doctoral degree in the field of education	Credits
a) Share of the doctoral thesis in the degree	160 credits
b) Major subject studies - studies in general theory of science and research methodology (10-20 cr) - content studies in the student's own field of research (10-20 credits) - research methods relevant to the student's own research (10-20 credits) - studies in scientific communication and research ethics (3-5 credits)	40 credits
c) Minor subject studies and other studies in support of the development of scientific expertise - for students pursuing studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, advanced studies in education (30 credits) if they have not completed similar studies before - for students pursuing studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Education), advanced studies in the minor subject (30 credits) or multidisciplinary advanced studies providing eligibility for postgraduate studies (30 credits) or a module of subject studies that was not part of the student's Master's degree (35 credits) - other studies (5-10 credits)	40 credits
Total scope of the doctor's degree	240 credits

Table 1. Structure and dimensioning of the Doctor's degree at the Faculty of Education, University of Oulu.

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

419105J: Doctoral thesis, 0 op

A200092: Major Subjects Studies for a Postgraduate Degree, 0 op

A200093: Minor Subject Studies for a Postgraduate Degree, 0 op

419108J: Qualitative research, 10 - 20 op

419109J: Scientific communication and research ethics, 3 - 5 op

419107J: Studies in the content areas, 10 - 20 op

419106J: Theoretical foundations of disciplines and research methodology, 10 - 20 op

419105J-01: Thesis seminar, 0 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

419105J: Doctoral thesis, 0 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Defence of the Ph. D. thesis

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: suor (pass), oiv (excellent), khy (excellent)

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

160 cr

Contents:

For a scientific study to be accepted as a doctoral thesis, it must be based on independent research and it should add to knowledge in the field of the research of the major subject.

The doctoral thesis can be published as a single monograph or as a so-called bundled thesis, in which case it contains a number of scientific publications or manuscripts accepted for publication on the same set of problems, accompanied by a summary of them, or some other work meeting the same criteria. The summary shall present the theoretical background, methods, important results and scientifically based conclusions of the research. The publications can also include co-authored publications, if the doctoral candidate's independent share in them can be proved.

In addition to the summary, a bundled thesis shall include 3-5 international refereed articles. These publications must have been published or accepted for publication before the thesis is submitted for a preliminary examination. The shared responsibilities for a co-authored article shall be specified as early as possible, or when the article is published at the latest. Distribution of responsibility and the author's share shall be clarified in a communication to the faculty when the manuscript is submitted for assessment.

If there are more than three publications, one of the publications can be a submitted manuscript in which case the preliminary examiner can assess it similarly to a monograph or suggest corrections to be made to it if necessary. In at least three of the articles, the author shall be the only author or the primary author. In co-authored articles, the names of the authors are entered in such an order that the first name refers to the person who contributed most to writing the article. The crucial issues are the scientific level of the publications and the whole formed by them.

Preliminary examination

If the preliminary examination seminar recommends that the thesis should be submitted for an official examination, or when the supervisor finds that the deficiencies brought up have been corrected, the student shall deliver the manuscript in three copies to the Faculty Office. The faculty appoints at least two preliminary examiners who shall be from outside the faculty/department. Within three months from having been appointed, they shall submit a substantiated written statement either together or separately, proposing that permission be either given or not given to publish the thesis. The permission cannot be conditional.

In the preliminary examination, attention is also given to the language of the thesis. Before giving their statement, the preliminary examiners can discuss the deficiencies they have observed with the author of the thesis, proposing that the corrections required by publication be made before they give their statement to the Faculty Council.

Publication permission

Based on the preliminary examiners' statement(s) and any remarks on them by the author of the thesis, the Faculty Council makes the decision on granting the permission to publish the thesis.

When the permission has been given, the thesis must be published. The theses are also published in an electronic form. The doctoral candidate shall deliver a copy of the thesis to the Faculty Office to be mounted on the noticeboard at least ten days before the public examination. The doctoral candidate shall deliver his/her thesis

to the Faculty Office for inspection by the members of the Faculty Council, and in person to the dean of the faculty, ten days before the public examination. It is good manners that the candidate agrees on an appointment with the university's Rector through his secretary (tel. 553 4071) and delivers personally a copy of the thesis to him.

The doctoral thesis can be published in the Acta Universitatis Ouluensis series, for instance, or in some other scientific series, but it can also be self-published. The publication committee for the Acta series has issued detailed instructions for publications to be published in the series <http://www.kirjasto.oulu.fi/julkaisutoiminta/acta>.

All doctoral theses shall include an abstract in English with keywords. In the Faculty of Education theses written in a language other than Finnish shall also include an abstract in Finnish.

Public examination

The Faculty Council appoints its representative (custos) for the public examination as well as one or two opponents who shall be at least qualified adjunct professors or have corresponding scientific merits. The supervisors of the doctoral candidate or the co-authors of a bundled thesis are not allowed to function as opponents. The author of the thesis is given an opportunity to give a statement on the appointment of the opponents.

The dean of the faculty fixes the date for the public examination.

Advice on practical issues related to the public examination is given at the Faculty Office and in the booklet called Ohjeita väittelijöille available at <http://www.hallinto.oulu.fi/viestin/yliopistolaisille/Vaitosohje.htm>.

Assessment of doctoral theses

Within one month from the public examination, the opponents shall give a written statement about the thesis, detailing its merits and deficiencies and recommending that the faculty either accept (or reject) the study as a thesis that justifies the doctor's degree. The opponents shall also suggest a grade for the thesis. The custos shall give the Faculty Council his/her statement on the progress of the public examination and the doctoral candidate's capacity to defend his/her thesis. If necessary, the Faculty Council can also consult the preliminary examiners of the thesis. Before the thesis is graded, the doctoral candidate is given an opportunity to comment on the statement about the grading of the thesis. On the basis of these statements and proposals, the Faculty Council makes the decision on either accepting or rejecting the thesis and on its grade. A thesis that is accepted is graded on the following scale:

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = very good
- 3 = good
- 2 = satisfactory
- 1 = sufficient

When the rejection or acceptance and the grade of a doctoral thesis (and Licentiate thesis where applicable) is considered, these are some of the issues that are taken into account:

- Significance, originality or novelty of the research setting in relation to other past and current research in the same field.
- Justification of the chosen research methods, originality of the methods used, development of new methods.
- Theoretical or practical significance of the research results.
- Familiarity with the field of research indicated by the thesis and the ability to consider one's own and others' research critically and to make clear conclusions about the results achieved.
- Consistency and clarity of presentation and other stylistic aspects.
- Capacity of the author to defend his/her thesis in the public examination.

A200092: Major Subjects Studies for a Postgraduate Degree, 0 op

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Study module

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Contents:

The studies in the major subject consist of the following courses:

- 419106J General theory of science and research methodology, 10-20 credits
- 419107J Content studies, 10-20 credits
- 419108J Research methods, 10-20 credits

A200093: Minor Subject Studies for a Postgraduate Degree, 0 op

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Study module

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

0 cr

Contents:

- c) Minor subject studies and other studies in support of the development of scientific expertise
- for students pursuing studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, advanced studies in education (30 credits) if they have not completed similar studies before
 - for students pursuing studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Education), advanced studies in the minor subject (30 credits) or multidisciplinary advanced studies providing eligibility for postgraduate studies (30 credits) or a module of subject studies that was not part of the student's Master's degree (35 credits)
 - other studies (5-10 credits)

419108J: Qualitative research, 10 - 20 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

10-20 cr

Contents:

- The student carries out studies in research methods relevant to his/her own research
- Methodological studies (quantitative and/or qualitative approach to research)
- Applicable elective studies

Learning activities and teaching methods:

See the recommended implementation plan for major subject studies 2008-2011.

Grading:

pass/fail

Person responsible:

Supervisor(s)

419109J: Scientific communication and research ethics, 3 - 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

3-5 cr

Contents:

- The student takes generally accepted courses in scientific communication and research ethics
- Language and communication studies; scientific writing
- Issues of research ethics
- Applicable elective studies

Learning activities and teaching methods:

See the recommended implementation plan for major subject studies 2008-2011.

Grading:

pass/fail

Person responsible:

Supervisor(s)

419107J: Studies in the content areas, 10 - 20 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

10-20 cr

Contents:

- The student takes courses related to content studies in his/her field of research
- Orientation to postgraduate studies
- Topical themes in the major subject
- Seminar work
- Applicable elective studies

Learning activities and teaching methods:

See the recommended implementation plan for major subject studies 2008-2011.

Grading:

pass/fail

Person responsible:

Supervisor(s)

419106J: Theoretical foundations of disciplines and research methodology, 10 - 20 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

10-20 cr

Contents:

- General philosophy of science
- Theory and traditions of science in the major subject
- Applicable elective studies

Learning activities and teaching methods:

See the suggested implementation plan for major subject studies 2008-2011

Grading:

pass/fail

Person responsible:

Supervisor(s)

419105J-01: Thesis seminar, 0 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Post-graduate Studies

Laji: Partial credit

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Education

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Ei opintojaksokuvauksia.