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
Vastuuysikkö: 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
Vastuuysikkö: 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
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Education
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kieleet: 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
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Education
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kieleet: 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  
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Education  
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail  
Opintokohteen kiele: 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  
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Education  
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail  
Opintokohteen kiele: 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  
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Education  
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail  
Opintokohteen kiele: Finnish  

Ei opintojaksokuvauksia.