

# **GUIDANCE ON REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS FOR THE PhD DEGREE AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN**

*Adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry on 18 September 2013. This document replaces the corresponding guidelines adopted 9 April 2008.*

## **Other Regulations and guidelines**

The formal requirements of the doctoral degree PhD at the University of Bergen are found in *Regulations for the Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) degree at the University of Bergen*, adopted on 20 June 2013.

In addition, the following documents give additional local rules and specifications for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry:

- *Guidelines for the evaluation process of the doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Bergen*
- *Publications in Doctoral Dissertations, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Bergen.*
- *Guidelines for summaries to PhD dissertations, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Bergen.*

## **Scientific quality**

A thesis submitted for the degree of PhD should contain new observations of scientific value within the field of the Faculty. The thesis must be an independent, academic work that meets international standards, and must be at an advanced academic level in respect of the formulation of the research topic, conceptual clarification and methodical, theoretical and empirical rationale, as well as in respect of the documentation of sources and formal presentation. The thesis must be able to contribute to the development of new knowledge in the chosen field and must be of such quality as to qualify for publication as a part of the academic literature in the field.

Normally, dissertations that are submitted to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry consist of articles that have been published in refereed international journals and a general survey of the results with a detailed scientific discussion. Unpublished monographs may also be submitted for the degree of PhD.

The requirement regarding scientific quality is absolute. The problems addressed should be clearly and precisely formulated. The materials and methodology employed must be adequate and appropriate. The results must provide good, controllable documentation. Tables, figures and other illustrations must be appropriately presented. The conclusions drawn must be justifiable. The treatment of the literature must be adequate with regard to critical selection and evaluation. The references must be correct. The presentation of the text must be clear, precise and linguistically satisfactory. These requirements regarding scientific quality are identical for monographs and article-based dissertations.

## **Scope**

A doctoral dissertation should be on international PhD-level, and the scope of the thesis should correspond to 2.5 man-years.

Normally, a doctoral dissertation should consist of three scientific articles prepared for international journals with a peer review system. The number of articles will, however, depend on the size and quality of the papers and the candidate's contribution. Where the candidate has put an unusually large amount of work into a paper and that article is of a very high quality, the number of articles can be reduced.

As a general rule, the doctoral candidate should be the principal author of at least two articles. Where the candidate is not the principal author, he / she should have contributed considerably in the collection of data, interpreting of results and writing of the article.

Please also consult *Publications in Doctoral Dissertations, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Bergen*.

### **The introduction**

An article-based thesis should, in addition to the individual articles, include a presentation of the scientific results with a detailed, up-to-date comparative discussion (Known as an “introduction” to the articles). This general presentation should be a scientific document that gives the candidate the opportunity to discuss aspects of his/her articles in more depth, and, if necessary, correct certain aspects of them. The introduction should demonstrate scientific overview and maturity, as well as the ability to penetrate specialised scientific problems. The introduction may take the form of a review article, of which the doctoral candidate should be first author.

Please also consult

- Guidelines for the evaluation process of the doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Bergen and
- Guidelines for summaries to PhD dissertations, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Bergen.

### **Correction of formal errors and changes after submission**

The thesis will be evaluated exactly in the form in which it has been submitted. However, the candidate may apply for permission to correct formal errors in the thesis after submission. The application must include a complete overview of the errors (errata) which the candidate wishes to correct. Applications to correct formal errors must be submitted no later than four (4) weeks before the committee's deadline for submitting its recommendation, and may only be done once. If the application is approved, the approved list of errors will be presented to the evaluation committee.

### **Joint work**

A complete thesis may, on exception, be the joint effort of two doctoral candidates. In such cases, the thesis should be equivalent in scope to two normal doctoral theses. In addition, the independent efforts of each individual candidate must be clearly defined and should be equivalent to about half of the scientific work involved. This also applies to the summary.