

Regulations to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo

Warrant: Stipulated by the Board of MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society 5. June 2012, warranted by the Act 1. April 2005 no. 15 relating to universities and university colleges (Universitets- og høyskoleloven) § 3-3 and 3.9. Slightly amended by the Board of MF 3. June 2014.

PART I INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Section 1 Applicability of these guidelines

The regulations apply to the doctoral education culminating in the Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. The regulations give provisions for admission to, participation in and completion of doctoral training, including joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements. For general definitions, cf. Regulations 2. November 2005 no. 1367 on admissions, studies, and exams at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society 2005 § 3 and § 19 - § 21.

Section 2 Scope, content and objectives of doctoral education

The objective of doctoral education is to qualify candidates to conduct research of international quality and to perform other types of work requiring a high level of scientific expertise and analytical thinking in accordance with sound scientific practice and established standards on research ethics.

Doctoral education normally consists of three (3) years of full-time study, and includes required coursework comprising a minimum of 30 credits.

The most important component of doctoral education is an independent research project or a combined research and development project carried out under close academic supervision.

Section 3 Responsibility for doctoral education

The board of MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society has the overall responsibility for doctoral education offered at the institution.

Section 4 Quality assurance

Doctoral education is included under the institution's quality assurance system.

PART II ADMISSION

Section 5 Admission

Section 5.1 Conditions of admission

To be eligible for admission to doctoral training, applicants must normally have the degree of cand.theol., a five-year master's degree or its equivalent. Based on a special assessment, the institution may approve other, comparable qualifications as the basis for admission.

Applications should contain:

- documentation of the educational qualifications to serve as the basis of admission;
- a project description including plan of progress
- description of the research material of the project
- documentation of special needs for academic and material resources
- proposal for at least one academic supervisor

The Research Committee (Forskningsutvalget) at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society is responsible for determining the content of its application form, and may establish additional documentation requirements.

The project description should provide an explanation of the thematic area, research questions, the choice of theory and methodology, and plan of progress.

The rector may establish requirements related to the candidate's obligation to be in residence at the institution.

As a general rule, an application for admission to doctoral training must be submitted within three (3) months of the start-up of the research project that will culminate in conferral of the PhD degree. If less than one (1) year of full-time work on the research project remains at the time of submission of the application, the application will be rejected, c.f. section 5.3.

Section 5.2 Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to implement the research project must be placed at the disposal of the candidate. It is the responsibility of the institution to decide what infrastructure is necessary for implementing the project. For candidates with external funding or an external workplace, an agreement must be entered into between MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society and the external party in connection with the research project concerned. As a general rule, the agreement must be signed prior to the formal admission of the candidate or immediately thereafter.

Section 5.3 Admission decision

The decision to grant admission is based on an overall assessment of the application. MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society may stipulate criteria for use in ranking qualified applicants when the number of applicants exceeds the admission capacity of the institution.

The formal admission letter will establish the start and end dates of the agreement period, and appoint at least one academic supervisor. In addition it will assign responsibility for dealing with other needs outlined in the application.

Admission will be denied if:

- agreements with external third parties prevent the doctoral thesis from being made available to the public or from being defended in a public forum;
- the agreements on intellectual property rights that have been entered into are so unreasonable that the institution should not be involved in the project;

Section 5.4 Agreement period

Doctoral education normally consists of three (3) years of full-time study. The Research Committee may establish rules regarding the maximum time allowed to complete the doctoral programme, excluding legally established leaves of absence and required duties.

If the candidate's training is interrupted for legally established reasons, the agreement period will be extended correspondingly.

The rector may, upon substantiated application, extend the agreement period.

If an extension of the agreement period is approved, the Research Committee may stipulate additional terms and conditions.

When the period of admission expires, the rights and obligations of the parties in connection with the PhD agreement terminate. This means that the PhD candidate may lose his/her right to receive academic supervision, participate in courses and have access to the institution's infrastructure. However, the candidate may apply for permission to submit his/her doctoral thesis for evaluation for the PhD degree.

Section 5.5 Termination prior to expiry of the agreement period

Voluntary termination:

The candidate and institution may agree that the candidate's participation in the doctoral programme will be terminated prior to expiry of the agreement period. In the event of voluntary termination, all questions regarding the terms and conditions of employment, funding, rights to the use of the research results, etc. must be settled in a termination agreement.

If voluntary termination is due to the candidate's desire to change projects or transfer to a different doctoral programme, the candidate must reapply for admission on the basis of the new project.

Involuntary termination:

The Research Committee may decide to terminate a candidate's participation in the doctoral programme prior to expiry of the agreement period without the candidate's consent.

Involuntary termination may be imposed if one or more of the following conditions are present:

- serious delays in the completion of the required coursework due to factors over which the candidate has control;
- repeated or grave violations of the candidate's obligations to provide information, meet commitments, and report on the project, including a failure to submit a progress report, c.f. section 9;
- delays in the progress of the research project that are of such a nature as to raise doubts about the candidate's ability to complete the project within the stipulated time period. Such delays are considered grounds for involuntary termination if they are due to factors over which the candidate has control;
- violation of the ethical standards that pertain in the candidate's field of research, including cheating as addressed in section 4.7 of the Act relating to universities and university colleges;
- behaviour by the candidate that is in violation of the trust that must exist between an institution and its candidates, including any illegal activities carried out in connection with the doctoral programme.

PhD candidates employed at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society may be dismissed from their position when there are proper grounds for doing so, c.f. sections section 15 of the Act regarding summary discharge (Arbeidsmiljøloven).

Section 6 The PhD agreement

Admission to doctoral training at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society must be formalised in a written agreement signed by the PhD candidate, the academic supervisor(s) and the institution. The agreement regulates the rights and obligations of the parties during the period of admission and is intended to ensure that the candidate participates on a regular basis in an active research group and that he/she is able to complete the training within the stipulated time period. The institution is responsible for creating a standardised form for this purpose.

For PhD candidates with funding from, employment at or other contributions from an external party, a separate agreement must be entered into between the candidate, the institution and the external party, in keeping with the established guidelines.

In the event that the PhD candidate will be affiliated with an institution abroad, the institution's guidelines for such cooperation must be followed and a separate agreement must be entered into using the institution's standardised form. As a general rule, the signed agreement must be attached to the admission agreement.

PART III IMPLEMENTATION

Section 7 Academic supervision

The work involved in the doctoral thesis must be carried out under individualised academic supervision. The institution and the supervisors are to work together to ensure that the PhD candidate participates in an active research group.

Section 7.1 Appointment of academic supervisors

As a general rule, the PhD candidate may have two academic supervisors, of which one will be designated as the main supervisor. The main supervisor should be appointed at the time of admission.

The main supervisor has the primary academic-related responsibility for the candidate. As a general rule, the main supervisor should be employed at MF Norwegian school of Theology, Religion and Society. If the institution appoints an external main supervisor, a co-supervisor from the degree-conferring institution (MF) must also be appointed.

Co-supervisors or lateral supervisors are experts in the field who provide supervision and share the academic-related responsibility for the candidate with the main supervisor. In specific cases external co-supervisors may be appointed.

Provisions on impartiality in sections 6-10 of the Public Administration Act (Forvaltningsloven) regarding disqualification apply to the academic supervisors.

All academic supervisors must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification in the relevant research field and be working actively as researchers. At least one of the appointed supervisors should have previous experience or training in serving as a supervisor for PhD candidates.

The PhD candidate and academic supervisor may ask the institution to appoint a new supervisor for the candidate. The supervisor may not withdraw before a new supervisor has been appointed. The parties may bring any disputes regarding the academic-related rights and obligations of the supervisor and candidate to the institution for review and a final decision.

Section 7.2 Duties of the academic supervisors

The candidate and academic supervisors should have regular contact. The supervisor is responsible for following up the candidate's academic development. The frequency of contact between the parties should be stated in the annual progress report, c.f. section 9.

The candidate and the main academic supervisor should, as quickly as possible and within three (3) months of admission, review the project description and assess the need for any adjustments.

The supervisors are required to stay informed of the progress of the candidate's work and to assess it in relation to the progress plan in the project description, c.f. section 5.1.

The supervisors are required to follow up academic-related factors that may cause a delay in the candidate's progress so that the candidate can complete the training within the stipulated time period.

The supervisors are to give advice on formulating and delimiting the thematic area and research questions, discuss and assess hypotheses and methodology, discuss the results and the interpretation of these, discuss the structure and implementation of the thesis, including

the outline, choice of language, documentation, etc., and provide guidance on the academic literature and data available in libraries, archives, etc. The supervisors must also advise the candidate on the issue of research ethics related to the thesis.

Section 8 Required coursework

Section 8.1 Purpose, content and scope

Doctoral education must be organised such that candidates are able to complete their training within the stipulated time frame.

Courses and exams during the required coursework are applied to Regulations 2. November 2005 no. 1367 on admissions, studies, and exams at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society 2005 sections 6 and 7 as far as possible.

The required coursework and the work involved in the doctoral thesis should constitute an education at a high academic level in accordance with international standards. Doctoral training must include the completion of a piece of scientific research, training in research dissemination and an introduction to research ethics, the philosophy of science and scientific methods. The coursework, together with the research project, must be designed to achieve the anticipated learning outcome in accordance with the national qualifications framework.

The required coursework will normally be done at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. If the institution itself does not provide all of the required courses, it must facilitate the candidate's participation in comparable courses at other institutions.

The coursework must consist of at least 30 credits, of which 20 credits must be completed following admission to the programme. Credits approved as part of the required coursework should not have been completed more than two (2) years prior to the date of admission.

Doctoral-level courses completed at another institution may be approved by MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society in accordance with the provisions of section 3-5, first paragraph, of the Act relating to universities and university colleges.

Section 8.2 The candidate's rights in the event of leave of absence

PhD candidates on maternity/paternity leave from the doctoral programme may attend classes and sit for examinations in courses that will be included as part of the candidate's required coursework during the leave period, pursuant to section 14-10, fourth paragraph, of the National Insurance Act (Folketrygdloven) and the circular from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) regarding that section.

Section 9 Reporting and midterm evaluation

Section 9.1. Reporting

In the period of admission, annual individual written reports regarding the progress in the PhD education shall be submitted both by the PhD candidate and the academic supervisor. The reports shall be on stipulated forms and designed to avoid dual reporting. The reports shall be addressed to the institution and be approved by the institution.

The candidate and the supervisor are equally responsible for submitting the required reports. A lack of, or inadequate, progress reports from the candidate may result in involuntary termination of the candidate's participation in the doctoral programme prior to expiry of the period of admission, c.f. section 5.5. Supervisors who fail to comply with the reporting requirements may be relieved of his/her supervisory duties.

The institution may establish special reporting requirements, if needed.

Section 9.2. Midterm evaluation

A midterm evaluation of the research project should normally be carried out in the third or fourth semester. The candidate must present his/her work and will be evaluated by a group of at least two persons appointed by the institution. The evaluation group must give its opinion of the academic status and progress of the research project and provide feedback to the candidate, supervisor and institution.

If the evaluation group finds major weaknesses in the research project, measures to rectify the situation must be implemented.

To candidates admitted to the PhD-program prior to the enforcement of the present regulations, the midterm evaluation is optional.

Section 10 The doctoral thesis

Section 10.1 Thesis requirements

A doctoral thesis must be an independent piece of scientific research or research and development project that meets international standards with regard to ethical requirements, academic level and methodology used in the research field.

The thesis must contribute to the development of new knowledge and achieve a level meriting publication or meriting public disclosure in a suitable format as part of research-based knowledge development in the field.

The thesis may consist of a monograph or a compendium of several shorter manuscripts. If the thesis consists of several shorter manuscripts, an explanation of how these are interrelated must be included.

A doctoral thesis produced by more than one person may be submitted for evaluation. In this case, it must be possible to identify the contributions of the individuals involved.

If the thesis or parts of the thesis have been produced in cooperation with other authors or cooperating partners, the PhD candidate must follow the norms for co-authorship that are generally accepted within the academic community and in accordance with international standards. If the thesis consists mainly of articles, the candidate must normally be listed as the lead author on at least half of the articles.

A thesis containing articles written by more than one author or cooperating partners must include a signed declaration that describes the candidate's contribution to each of the articles.

The Research Committee decides what languages may be used in the doctoral thesis.

Section 10.2 Manuscripts that may not be submitted

Manuscripts or parts of manuscripts that have been approved as the basis for previous examinations or degrees may not be submitted for evaluation as part of the doctoral thesis. However, data, analyses and methodologies from previous degrees may be used as the basis for the doctoral research project.

Published articles will not be approved for use in the doctoral thesis if more than five (5) years has passed from the date of publication to the date of admission. The institution may allow an exception to this rule in extraordinary cases.

The doctoral thesis may be submitted for evaluation to only one educational institution, c.f. section 13.1.

Section 11 Obligation to report on research results with commercial potential

The rights between cooperating institutions must be regulated in a written agreement.

The regulations at MF Norwegian School at the time should form the basis of the PhD candidate's obligation to report on the research results with commercial potential that he/she produced during the employment relationship at MF, cf. the relevant Acts of the area.

When a PhD candidate is employed at the institution, a specific agreement between MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society and the employee should be established regarding transferring of rights to working results. The agreement should regulate the obligations of employer and employee related to the use of results, division of income etc. When a PhD candidate has an external employer, the corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in a written agreement between MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, the PhD candidate and the external employer.

For PhD candidates without an employer, the corresponding obligation to report must be stipulated in the admission agreement between MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society and the PhD candidate.

PART IV COMPLETION

Section 12 Evaluation

Section 12.1 Basis for the evaluation

The PhD degree is conferred on the basis of:

- an approved doctoral thesis
- approved completion of the required coursework, or any other approved educational qualifications or expertise
- an approved trial lecture on a assigned topic
- an approved public defence of the doctoral thesis

Section 12.2 Time from submission to public defence

The institution must make an effort to ensure that the time between submission of the doctoral thesis for evaluation and the public defence of the thesis is as short as possible. Normally this period should not exceed five (5) months.

It is the responsibility of the main academic supervisor to notify the leader of the Research Committee that the doctoral thesis will be submitted soon so that the necessary preparations can begin.

Section 13 Submission

Section 13.1 Submission of the doctoral thesis

The application for evaluation of the doctoral thesis may only be submitted after the required coursework has been approved. The application is addressed to the rector.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

- the doctoral thesis prepared in the approved format and in accordance with the rules at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society regarding the form and number of copies;
- required written permission, c.f. section 5.1.;
- declarations from co-authors when this is required pursuant to section 10.1;
- statement regarding whether the doctoral thesis is being submitted for evaluation for the first or second time;
- statement that the doctoral thesis has not been submitted for evaluation at another institution.

The institution may make an independent decision to deny an application for evaluation of the doctoral thesis if it is evident that the thesis does not meet sufficiently high standards of scientific quality and would therefore be rejected by an evaluation committee.

The doctoral thesis must be made available to the public no later than two weeks prior to the public defence, c.f. section 18.1.

Section 13.2 Assessment of the application

The rector assesses the application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis. Applications that do not fulfil the requirements stated in section 13.1 will be denied.

Section 14 Appointment of the evaluation committee

The rector approves an application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis, and appoints an expert committee comprised of at least three members who will evaluate the thesis and the public defence. Committee members are subject to the provisions in section 6 of the Public Administration Act regarding impartiality.

The composition of the committee should normally be decided at the time of submission of the doctoral thesis.

The evaluation committee will normally be comprised so that:

- both genders are represented;

- at least one of the members is not affiliated with MF Norwegian school of Theology;
- at least one of the members is not employed in his/her main position at a Norwegian institution;
- all the members hold a doctoral degree or equivalent expertise;
- the majority of the committee members are external.

If these criteria are not met, an explanation must be provided.

The Research Committee is responsible for establishing procedures for the appointment of evaluation committees. The proposal for the composition of the committee must explain the reasoning behind the selection of the members and how the committee as a whole covers the field(s) addressed in the doctoral thesis. The institution must appoint either one of the committee members or another person to serve as the committee's chairperson.

The appointed supervisor and others who have contributed to the doctoral thesis may not be a member of the evaluation committee or administer its activities.

When required, the rector may appoint an alternate to sit on the evaluation committee.

The candidate will be notified of the proposal for the composition of the committee, and he/she may submit written comments no later than one week after the proposal has been made known to the candidate.

Section 15 Activities of the evaluation committee

Section 15.1 Gathering of supplementary information

The evaluation committee may ask to review the PhD candidate's basic data and any additional or clarifying information.

The evaluation committee may ask the academic supervisor to provide information about the supervision carried out and the work involved in the doctoral thesis.

Section 15.2 Reworking of a submitted doctoral thesis

The evaluation committee may, on the basis of the submitted doctoral thesis and any additional material, c.f. section 14.1, recommend that the institution permit the candidate to make minor revisions to the thesis before the committee submits its final report. The committee must provide a written list of the specific items that the candidate must rework.

If the institution allows minor revisions to the thesis, a deadline normally not exceeding three (3) months will be set for completing such revisions. A new deadline for submission of the committee's final report will also be set. The rector's decision pursuant to this paragraph may not be appealed by the PhD candidate.

If the committee finds that extensive changes related to the theory, hypothesis, material or methods used in the thesis are needed in order to deem the thesis worthy of a public defence, the committee must reject the thesis.

Section 15.3 Report of the evaluation committee

The evaluation committee determines whether the thesis is worthy of being defended for the PhD degree. The decision presented in the report and any dissenting views must be explained.

The committee's report must be submitted no later than three (3) months from the date when the committee received the thesis. If the committee allows reworking of the thesis, a new period commences upon resubmission of the thesis.

The committee's report is submitted to the institution, which forwards the report to the PhD candidate. The candidate is given ten (10) working days in which to submit written comments to the report. If the candidate does not wish to submit comments, he/she must notify the institution of this in writing as soon as possible.

Any written comments by the PhD candidate must be sent to the rector. The rector is responsible for taking the final decision on the matter in accordance with section 16.

Section 15.4 Correction of formal errors in the doctoral thesis

A thesis which has been submitted may not be withdrawn before the evaluation committee has determined whether it is worthy of being defended for the PhD degree.

After the PhD candidate submits the doctoral thesis for evaluation, he/she will be allowed to correct formal errors in the thesis. A list of the errors that the candidate wishes to correct (an errata list) must be attached to the application. The application to correct formal errors may be submitted only once, and no later than four (4) weeks prior to the committee's deadline for submission of its final report.

Section 16 Institutional procedures related to the evaluation committee's report

On the basis of the report by the committee report, the rector determines whether the doctoral thesis is worthy of a public defence.

Unanimous committee decision

If the committee's decision is unanimous, the rector may take the final decision in accordance with the committee's report.

If the rector finds that there are grounds to doubt whether the committee's unanimous decision should be used as the basis for its final decision, the institution must request further clarification from the evaluation committee and/or appoint two new reviewers who will submit individual evaluations of the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual evaluations must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments.

The rector takes the final decision on the matter on the basis of the committee's report and the subsequent reviews.

Non-unanimous committee decision

If the committee's decision is not unanimous, the case is referred to the Research Committee. If the Research Committee finds that there are grounds to use the majority's

opinion as the basis for its final decision, the rector will take the final decision in accordance with the majority's view. If the committee's decision is not unanimous and the Research Committee finds there are grounds to consider using the minority's opinion as the basis for its final decision, the rector must request further clarification from the evaluation committee and/or appoint two new reviewers who will submit individual evaluations of the thesis. Such additional clarification or individual evaluations must be presented to the PhD candidate, who will be given the opportunity to make comments. If both of the new reviewers agree with the majority's opinion in the original report by the committee, the majority's opinion must be followed.

The candidate will be informed of the outcome after procedures related to the statements by the new reviewers have been completed.

Section 17 Resubmission

A doctoral thesis that is not found to be worthy of a public defence may be resubmitted in revised form no sooner than six (6) after the initial rejection. A doctoral thesis may be re-evaluated only once.

In the event of resubmission, the PhD candidate must clearly state that the doctoral thesis was evaluated previously and was not found to be worthy of a public defence.

If resubmission takes place in another university institution, a new admission shall also take place there, cf. section 5.

Section 18 Public availability of the doctoral thesis

Section 18.1 Requirements related to the printed doctoral thesis

When the doctoral thesis is found worthy of a public defence, the PhD candidate must submit the thesis to MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society in the approved format and in accordance with the rules of the institution, c.f. section 13.1.

The PhD candidate must submit a brief summary of the doctoral thesis in English and Norwegian. If the thesis is not written in English or Norwegian, the candidate must also submit a summary in the language in which the thesis is written. Like the thesis itself, the summary must be made available to the public.

Section 18.2 Public availability

The doctoral thesis must be made available to the public no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the public defence. The thesis should be made available in the form in which it was submitted for evaluation, or following revisions made on the basis of the committee's preliminary comments, c.f. section 15.2.

There can be no restrictions placed on a doctoral thesis being made publicly available, except in the event that a prior agreement has been reached concerning a delay in public access at an agreed upon date. Such a delay may be allowed so that the institution and any external parties which have partially or wholly funded the candidate's PhD studies can determine their interests in potential patents. An external party may not require that all or part of a doctoral thesis be withheld from the public domain, c.f. section 5.3.

In the event of publication of the doctoral thesis, the candidate employed at MF Norwegian School of Theology must follow the general guidelines on the crediting of institutions and list MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society as the author's address in the publication. PhD candidates who are employed elsewhere must list MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society and the employer as the author's address in the publication. This also applies to works which are entirely or partly produced during the PhD education but are published at a later stage.

Section 19 The doctoral examination

Section 19.1 Trial lecture

After the doctoral thesis has been submitted for evaluation, c.f. section 15, the PhD candidate must hold a lecture. The trial lecture is an independent part of the examination for the PhD degree and is held on an assigned topic. The purpose is to test the candidate's ability to acquire knowledge beyond the topic of the doctoral thesis and to convey this knowledge in a lecture situation.

The title of the trial lecture must be announced to the PhD candidate ten (10) days prior to the lecture. The topic of the lecture must not have a direct connection to the topic of the thesis.

The trial lecture is normally held on the same day as the public defence. The evaluation committee will assign the topic of the lecture and conduct the evaluation.

The trial lecture must be held in the language in which the doctoral thesis is written, unless the institution approves the use of another language.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society is responsible for determining whether the trial lecture is approved or not approved. If the trial lecture is not approved, the reason for this must be explained.

The trial lecture must be approved before the public defence can be held.

Section 19.2 Public defence of the doctoral thesis

The public defence of the doctoral thesis must take place after the trial lecture has been held and approved, and no later than two (2) months after the institution has found the thesis to be worthy of a public defence.

The time and location of the public defence must be announced at least ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled date.

The committee that originally evaluated the doctoral thesis must also evaluate the public defence. The public defence must be held in the language used in the thesis, unless the institution, on the recommendation of the evaluation committee, approves the use of a different language.

There will normally be two opposing speakers, or discussants, at the defence. These two speakers must be members of the evaluation committee and will be appointed by the institution.

The public defence will be chaired by the rector or a person authorised by the rector. The chair of the defence will give a brief explanation of the procedures relating to the submission and evaluation of the doctoral thesis. Then the PhD candidate will explain the purpose and findings of the doctoral research project.

The first opposing speaker begins the questioning of the PhD candidate. The institution may decide to distribute the tasks normally assigned to the candidate and the first opposing speaker in a different way. After the first opposing speaker has concluded her/his questioning, members of the audience will have the opportunity to comment. The second opposing speaker concludes the questioning. The chair of the defence concludes the defence proceedings.

The evaluation committee submits its report to the institution in which it explains how it has assessed the public defence of the thesis. The report must conclude whether the defence was approved or not approved. If the defence is not approved, the report must provide an explanation for this.

Section 20 Approval of the doctoral examination

The rector takes a decision on approval of the doctoral examination on the basis of the evaluation committee's report.

If the institution does not approve the trial lecture, a new trial lecture must be held on a new topic no later than six (6) weeks following the first lecture. A new trial lecture may only be held once. The lecture must be evaluated to the extent possible by the same committee that evaluated the first lecture, unless the institution has stipulated otherwise.

If the institution does not approve the public defence, the PhD candidate may defend the doctoral thesis once more only. A new defence can be held after six (6) months and must be evaluated to the extent possible by the same committee that evaluated the first defence.

Section 21 Conferral of the degree and diploma

Based on a statement by the institution that the required coursework, doctoral thesis and doctoral examination have been approved, the Doctor of Philosophy degree will be conferred on the candidate by the rector.

The diploma is issued by MF Norwegian School of Theology and provides information about the academic training in which the candidate has participated. The rector determines what additional information is to appear on the diploma.

Section 22 Diploma Supplement

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society will issue a Diploma Supplement, i.e. an attachment to the PhD diploma, in keeping with the applicable guidelines.

PART V APPEALS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Section 23 Appeals

Section 23.1 Appeal of a rejection of an application for admission, appeal of a decision to terminate a student's admission rights, and appeal of rejection of an application for recognition of parts of the required coursework

Rejection of an application for admission, a decision to terminate a student's admission rights, and rejection of an application for recognition of parts of the required coursework may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of sections 28 and following of the Public Administration Act. A substantiated appeal should be sent to MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. If the rejection is upheld, the appeal is sent to the Appeal Committee at the institution for final decision.

Section 23.2 Appeal of an examination as part of the required coursework

Examinations taken as part of the required coursework may be appealed pursuant to section 5-2 "Complaints against procedural errors in connection with examinations" and section 5-3 "Complaints regarding marks awarded - right to explanation" of the Act relating to universities and university colleges.

Suspicion of cheating or attempt to cheat in exams or the handing in of the PhD thesis are regulated by Regulations 2. November 2005 no. 1367 on admissions, studies, and exams at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society 2005 sections 36, 37 and 54.

Suspicion of cheating or attempt to cheat are handled in accordance with the established routines for this at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society.

Section 23.3 Appeal of a rejection of an application for evaluation, and rejection of a doctoral thesis, trial lecture or public defence

Rejection of an application for evaluation of a doctoral thesis and a decision of non-approval of a doctoral thesis, trial lecture or public defence may be appealed pursuant to section 28 and following of the Public Administration Act. A substantiated appeal should be sent to MF Norwegian School of Theology. The institution may annul or change the decision if it finds that the appeal is correct. If the institution does not accept the appeal, the appeal is sent to the Appeal Committee at the institution for decision. The Appeal Committee may consider all sides of the decision which is appealed.

If the institution or the Appeal Committee finds grounds for this, individual experts or a committee may be appointed to conduct an assessment of the evaluation that was carried out and the criteria on which the evaluation was based, or to conduct a new or supplementary expert evaluation.

Section 24 Joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements

Section 24.1 Joint degrees and cotutelle (joint supervision) agreements

The institution may enter into an agreement with one or more Norwegian or foreign institutions to cooperate on joint degrees or cotutelle agreements.

With regard to cooperation on joint degrees and cotutelle agreements, an exception may be made to the other provisions in these recommended guidelines if it is necessary due to the regulations of the cooperating institution. Such exceptions, both individually and as a whole, must be clearly justifiable.

Section 24.2 Joint degrees¹

The term “joint degree” is defined as a collaboration between two or more institutions in which the cooperating institutions as a group are responsible for admission, academic supervision, the conferral of the degree and other elements as described in the present regulations. The collaboration is normally organised in the form of a consortium and is regulated by a contract between the consortium members. For a completed joint degree, a joint diploma is issued in the form of: a) a diploma issued by the consortium members as a group, b) a diploma issued by each of the consortium members, or a combination of a) and b).

An agreement to issue a joint degree is normally only entered into if there already exists an established, stable academic collaboration between the institution and at least one of the other consortium members. The board is responsible for establishing detailed guidelines for cooperation on a joint degree, including templates for cooperation agreements, c.f. first paragraph.

Section 24.3 Cotutelle agreements

The term “cotutelle agreement” is defined as the joint academic supervision of PhD candidates and cooperation on doctoral training for PhD candidates. A cotutelle agreement must be entered into for each candidate and should be based on stable, academic institutional cooperation.

Section 24.4 Requirements related to joint degrees and cotutelle agreements

Admission requirements, the requirement that the doctoral thesis must be made available to the public, and the requirement that the public defence must be evaluated by an impartial committee cannot be waived.

Section 25 Entry into force

Section 25.1 Entry into force

The present regulations enter into force 1. August 2012.

At the same time the regulations do annul Regulations to the Degree *Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.), approved by the Board of MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society 5. November 2005 no. 1339.

The rector at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society may establish additional provisions to the present regulations.

Section 25.2 Transitional provisions

¹ http://www.uhr.no/documents/En_h_ndbok_for_fellegradssamarbeid_rev_2009__2_.pdf

Persons who when the present regulations enter into force are already accepted into the PhD programme according to Regulations to the Degree *Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.) 5. November 2005 no. 1339 do retain the rights there established insofar as these are to their benefit.

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