

Degree requirements for the Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture 2022-2024

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1. Basic information

1.1. Name of the programme

Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture

1.2. Degrees of the programme

Doctor of Arts

Doctor of Science (Architecture)

1.3. Language of the degree

Finnish, Swedish, or English

1.4. Research fields

The Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture comprises of 10 Research Fields.

The research field and the supervising professor of the doctoral student are decided with the admission decision.

The Research Fields for the academic years of 2022-2024 are following:

Doctor of Science (Architecture)

Architecture, Landscape and Urbanism

Doctor of Arts

Art Education

Contemporary Art

Costume Design¹

Design

Film and Television

New Media

Photography

Visual Communication Design

Visual Culture

1.5. Scope of the programme

40 ECTS credits + Doctoral Thesis

1.6. Timetable of the degree

4 years of full-time study

8 years of part-time study

1.7. Doctoral Programme Director

Professor Turkka Keinonen

The doctoral programme director is in charge of the planning, execution, assessment and development of the programme.

¹ Scenography and Costume Design was replaced by Costume Design with the decision of the Academic Committee, 24.11.2021

2. Education objectives and intended learning outcomes

Aalto University's future is built upon a foundation of high-quality research, education, impact and shared values – responsibility, courage, and collaboration. The purpose of the university is to shape a sustainable future.

Our joint purpose is to educate doctors who can process and solve the huge global and societal challenges with scientific tools, also in interdisciplinary teams.

2.1. Education Objectives

Doctoral education prepares the doctoral student for academic career as highly qualified researcher or, increasingly also for diversity of career pathways outside of academia for example in most demanding expert positions or as entrepreneurs or creative practitioners.

The education is carried out in a multidisciplinary international scientific community through both field-specific and multidisciplinary research work and various forms of education and learning. High quality education and transferable skills training together with network-building ensure the development of doctoral student's competences.

2.2. Learning Outcomes

General research studies

- knowledge of the general theory of science and the arts
- general knowledge of research methods
- academic writing skills, communication skills, information literacy
- good argumentation skills, competence to present one's own research, and to address ethical questions relating to research.
- transferable work life and career skills, pedagogical studies

Research field studies

- field specific knowledge of the theory, history and methods
- field specific argumentation and communication skills
- required skills and knowledge to conduct research in the doctoral candidate's specific research topic

Doctoral thesis

- have competence to carry out independent and original academic research / have the high competence to search for and apply knowledge, and most importantly, the ability to independently formulate research questions and use scientific research methods to create new scientific knowledge
- be able to make such syntheses and critical assessments as are required to solve and process complex problems in research and innovation and in other areas of society.
- In the field of art, they may also have the ability to independently create methods or products or performances that high standards of art and creative practice.

3. Degree structure

The doctoral degree at the Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture consists of an approved doctoral thesis and 40 ECTS of studies. The studies comprise of two study modules: General research studies, 15-25 ECTS and Research field studies, 15-25 ECTS.

General research studies prepare students for research work, the application of research results, the dissemination of research findings and to learn the principles of responsible conduct of research. General research studies can include transferrable skill studies.

Research field studies and doctoral thesis help students to gain comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of their research field. Doctoral studies can include studies from several Aalto doctoral programmes when agreed on in the doctoral personal study plan of the student (DPSP).

Doctoral thesis	General research studies (15-25 ECTS)
	Research field studies (15-25 ECTS)

4. Content of studies

Each doctoral student must prepare a doctoral personal study plan (DPSP), which includes plans for the contents, scope and duration of his or her studies, research, supervision, funding and career. (OOS)

Each doctoral students prepares their personal study plan for themselves on the basis of their programme's curriculum. Students who wish to deviate from the approved curriculum of their programme must obtain approval for their personal study plan. The school shall provide its students with guidance for the preparation and updating of their study plan.

4.1. General research studies, 15-25 ECTS

Suggested ways to complete the module

- Primarily courses offered by the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture and the Aalto University Language Centre
- Also, courses offered by other Aalto Schools or other universities
- Also, individual study attainments in the form of:
 - conference paper/presentation
 - teaching activities (university level)
 - summer/winter school, research workshop/seminar

All individual studies need to be agreed with the supervising professor in advance.

Compulsory courses

ARTS-L0100 Introduction to Doctoral Studies, 1-2 ECTS (1 ECTS compulsory component)
LC-L1010 Research Ethics and good scientific practice, 1-2 ECTS (1 ECTS online component of the course is compulsory, 1 ECTS workshop days are recommended)
ARTS-L0102 Doing Research, 6 ECTS

Optional courses

General courses, methods and methodology

ARTS-L0110 Research through Art and Design, 2-4 ECTS
ARTS-L0111 Methods of Qualitative Research, 6 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Artistic and Art-Based Research, 4 ECTS

Philosophy and theory

XXX-LXXXX Contemporary Theories for Art Research, 4 ECTS
ARTS-LXXXX Philosophy of Science, 6 ECTS
ARTS-L0606 Knowing Aesthetics, 6 ECTS
XXXXX Global Perspectives: Re-mapping the History of Art, 3 ECTS
XXXXX Sculpture Now!, 6 ECTS

Research writing, presentation skills

LC-1330 Presenting Doctoral Research, 3 ECTS
LC-1335 Preparing for the Doctoral Defence, 1 ECTS
LC-1336 Popularize your Research
LCA-1050 Writing Doctoral Research for Arts
LC-L1017 – Asiantuntijaesittämisen valmennus jatko-opiskelijoille
LC-L1018 – Tutkimusraportoinnin tekstiretriitit jatko-opiskelijoille
ELO-L0005 Artistic research writing, 2 ECTS

Communication

LC-0550 Communication Skills
LC-0320 Public speaking skills
LC-0520 Impact and argumentation
LC-0510 Conference Presentations
LC-0550 Viestintä ja vuorovaikutustaidot
LC-0320 Esiintymistaito
LC-0530 Esiintyminen ja jännityksen hallinta
LC-0520 Vaikuttaminen ja argumentointi
LC-0340 Työelämän vuorovaikutusosaaminen
LC-0330 Johtamisviestintä
LC-0224 Neuvottelutaito
LC-0510 Konferenssi esiintyminen

Transferable skills (independent online courses available at findocnet.fi)

LC-L1011 Aalto Open science for Doctoral Students D
LC-L1012 Aalto Business Skills for Doctoral Students D
LC-L1013 Aalto Career Course for Doctoral Students D
LC-L1014 Aalto Interactive Leadership Skills for Doctoral Students D
LC-L1015 Aalto Project Management for Doctoral Students D
LC-L1016 Aalto Writing Research Grant Applications for Doctoral Students D

Finnish courses

Maximum of 5 ECTS of Finnish/Swedish² courses (minimum level A1) from Aalto University Language Centre can be included in the degree under General Research Studies.

4.2. Research field studies, 15-25 ECTS

Suggested ways to complete the module

- Department's / research field's doctoral seminar (compulsory)
- Courses offered by the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture
- Courses offered by other Aalto Schools or other universities
- Individual study attainments in the form of:
 - conference paper/presentation
 - publication or art/design production not included in the doctoral thesis
 - literature review / report on literature package
 - teaching activities (university level)
 - Bachelor's / Master's thesis advising
 - reflective report on art/creative practices related to the thesis topic
 - summer/winter school, research workshop/seminar

All individual studies need to be agreed with the supervising professor in advance.

Compulsory courses

Department's / Research field's doctoral seminar, min. 3 ECTS

If the doctoral student would like to participate to some other doctoral seminar instead or would like to propose some other arrangement, this needs to be approved by the supervising professor.

Seminars usually meet approximately once a month. Doctoral students present their own research projects as well as discuss field specific theories and literature. Seminars teach academic reading, writing and discussion.

ARK-LXXXX Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)
ARK-LXXXX Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar B, 3 ECTS

² Swedish was added with the decision of the Academic Committee, 24.11.2021

ARK-LXXXX Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar C, 3 ECTS
ARK-LXXXX Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar D, 3 ECTS

XXX-LXXXX New Media Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)
XXX-LXXXX New Media Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

XXX-LXXXX Photography Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)
XXX-LXXXX Photography Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

XXX-LXXXX Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)
XXX-LXXXX Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-LXXXX Film and Television Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)
ELO-LXXXX Film and Television Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-LXXXX Film and Television Doctoral Seminar C, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-LXXXX Film and Television Doctoral Seminar D, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L010201 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)
ELO-L010201 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, B, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-L010201 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, C, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-L010201 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, D, 3-6 ECTS

MUO-LXXXX Department of Design Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)

XXX-LXXXX Department of Art Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)
XXX-LXXXX Department of Art Doctoral Seminar B, 3 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Department of Art Doctoral Seminar C, 3 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Department of Art Doctoral Seminar D, 3 ECTS

Optional courses

Optional doctoral courses

ARK-L5003 Planning Theory, 6 ECTS
ARK-L5004 Urban Studies, 6 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Department of Media Doctoral School, 2-6 ECTS
ELO-LXXXX Artistic research writing, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-LXXXX Art-Practice-led and artistic research methodologies in film, scenography & costume, 3-6 ECTS
MUO-LXXXX Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 ECTS
MUO-LXXXX Positioning in the Fields and Practices of Design Researchs, 2 ECTS
MUO-LXXXX Analysing Doctoral Theses in Design, 2 ECTS

XXX-LXXXX Contemporary Theories for Art Research, 4 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Art, environment and activism, 3 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Curating and its Futures, 6 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Perspectives on Art Pedagogy, 6 ECTS
XXX-LXXXX Research Assemblage, 3 ECTS

Optional master's level courses which can be included in the doctoral degree

ARK-EXXXX Introduction to Architectural Research 6 cr
 ARK-EXXXX Design of Structures Theory 3 cr
 ARK-E4509 Housing Design – Research and Practice, 3cr
 ELO-EXXXX Costume and Research 6 cr
 MAR-EXXXX Maisema-arkkitehtuurin tutkimus 3cr
 MUO-EXXXX Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design 9-12cr
 MUO-EXXXX User Inspired Design - Knowing 6 cr
 MUO-EXXXX Design for Social Change - Co-Design 6 cr
 MUO-EXXXX Sustainability Politics 6 cr
 MUO-EXXXX Values in Design Futures 6 cr

4.3. Individual study attainments to be included in the study modules

It is recommended that the required 40 ECTS are completed by taking courses offered by Aalto University and possibly other universities, but it is also possible to include individual study attainments to the degree. All individual studies need to be agreed with the supervising professor in advance in the study plan of the student. Below is a list of possible individual study attainments, their scope and information on the study module in which they can be included. If the student wants to include studies exceeding the list or other type of individual study attainments, they must be confirmed by a separate process.

Type of study attainment	Scope	Maximum ECTS to be included
Conference paper / poster / presentation	1-2 ECTS per conference	Max. 2 ECTS (GRS*) Max. 4 ECTS (RFS**)
Publication or art/design production (not included in the doctoral thesis)	1-2 ECTS per publication/production	Max. 6 ECTS (RFS)
Literature review / report on literature package	250-300 pages of research literature = 1-2 ECTS	Max. 10 ECTS (RFS)
Teaching at a university, preparing a lecture or a series of lectures on history, theory or methods of the student's own research field	to be defined by the supervising professor	Max. 3 ECTS (GRS/RFS)
Bachelor's / Master's thesis advising	1 ECTS per thesis	Max. 2 ECTS (RFS)
Reflective report on art and creative practices related to the thesis topic	to be defined by the supervising professor	Max. 6 ECTS (RFS)
Summer/winter schools, research workshops/seminars	1-2 ECTS per event	Max. 2 ECTS (GRS) Max. 4 ECTS (RFS)

* GRS: General research studies ** RFS: Research field studies

4.4. Doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis is written on a topic which is related to the student's research field and which has been approved by the doctoral programme committee of the School. The thesis shall contribute to new scientific knowledge. The thesis includes a public defence after a pre-examination process.