



Curriculum
for
Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts,
Design and Architecture 2020-2022
(Aalto ARTS)

March 2020

Contents

In accordance with the [Aalto University General Regulations on Teaching and Studying](#), the curriculum is a confirmed overall description of the learning outcomes of a doctoral programme, the goals and contents of its study modules and the courses offered as well as the organisation of teaching within a given period of time as indicated in the Aalto University General Regulations on Teaching and Studying (Section 2). When the curriculum is being designed, at least the following details must be specified for each course: name, scope in credits, timing, learning outcomes, implementation method, language of instruction, assessment methods, grading scale, prerequisites (if any), the unit responsible for and the teacher-in-charge of the course.

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1. Basic information about the programme

1.1. Name of the programme

Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture

1.2. Degrees of the programme

Doctor of Arts (Art and Design), and 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 programme is a joint effort of the Departments of Architecture (ARK), Art (ART), Design (MUO), Media (MED), and Film, Television and Scenography (ELO).

The doctoral candidate chooses a research field when applying to the programme. The professor for supervising the doctoral studies is agreed upon at the same time.

The Research Fields for the academic years of 2020-2022 are following:

- Architecture, Landscape and Urbanism (ARK)
- Art Education (ART)
- Contemporary Art (ART)
- Visual Culture (ART)
- Design (MUO)
- Film and Television (ELO)
- Scenography and Costume Design (ELO)
- New Media (MED)
- Photography (MED)
- Visual Communication Design (MED)

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.

2. Education objectives and intended learning outcomes of the Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture

Aalto University's strategic objectives is to educate game changers — professionals with the knowledge and capabilities to build a sustainable society and to increase well-being through disruptive change¹. These capabilities need to be rooted in disciplinary excellence augmented by art, creativity, multidisciplinary collaboration and entrepreneurship.

Education Objectives

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

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

Learning Outcomes

Graduated doctors have the capability to work in a multidisciplinary and international environment together with various actors. They have the capability to assume leadership positions.

¹ [Aalto University Policies on Curriculum Design for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, section 1.2.](#)

They have the ability to search and apply knowledge and the ability to use research methods and to create new scientific knowledge. In the field of arts, they may also have the ability to independently create methods or products or performances that meet high artistic standards.

They are able to publish scientific results in reviewed publications and disseminate the results on scientific forum.

They are able to make such syntheses and critical assessments that are required to solve complex problems in research and innovation and in other areas of society. They have versatile written and oral communication skills and are able to work and communicate information in several languages. They work responsibly with respect to ethical and sustainable considerations and their work in the scientific community follows responsible conduct of research.

3. Structure of the programme

Doctoral studies at Aalto University consist of an approved doctoral thesis and study modules. In the field of arts, design and architecture, the study modules comprise research field studies as well as general research studies in total of 40 ECTS (from 2020 onwards). The completion of a doctoral degree equals four years of full-time studies.

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

4. Content of studies

Doctoral studies are completed in the form of study modules². Those admitted to doctoral education shall:

- i) pursue studies that deal with the preparation for research work, the application of research results and the dissemination of research findings;
- ii) gain comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of a research field;
- iii) learn the principles of responsible conduct of research.

² Degree Regulations on Doctoral Education as of 1 August 2018.

Doctoral degree comprises of the Doctoral thesis, and 40 ECTS of studies: General research studies of 15-25 ECTS, and Research field studies of 15-25 ECTS.

Each doctoral candidate makes a study plan, research plan, supervision plan, financial plan, and an optional career plan; the implementation of all of which is followed up by the supervising professor. The supervising professor is also responsible for the supervision arrangements of the doctoral candidate. The individual study plan is agreed by the supervising professor before a confirmation.

<https://into.aalto.fi/display/enddoctoralarts/Studies+and+courses>

4.1. General Research Studies, 15-25 ECTS

Learning objectives:

- 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,

Primarily completed with courses offered by the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture. Also courses taken in other Aalto Schools or in other universities can be included here, as well as substituting literature (exams, literature reviews or essays).

Compulsory courses

ARTS-L0100 Introduction to Doctoral Studies, 1-2 ECTS (1 ECTS compulsory component)

ARTS-LV 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

TAI-L0007 Artistic and Art-Based Research, 4 ECTS

Philosophy and theory

ARTS-L0603 Philosophy of Science, 4 ECTS

ARTS-L0606 Knowing Aesthetics, 6 ECTS

TAI-L0006 Contemporary Theories for Art Research, 4 ECTS

ARTS-E0604 Global Perspectives: Re-mapping the History of Art, 4 ECTS

ARTS-E0708 Sculpture Now!, 5 ECTS

ARTS-E0700 The Realm of the Senses, 4-8 ECTS

Writing and presenting doctoral research

LCA-1050 Writing Doctoral Research for Arts (w), 3 ECTS

LC-1336 Popularize your research, 1-3 ECTS

LC-1330 Presenting Doctoral Research (o), 3-5 ECTS
 ELO-L0004 Artistic research writing, 2-6 ECTS
 TAI-L0010 Creative writing and other discourses, 2 ECTS

Other options

[Nationally jointly developed courses, offered via findocnet.fi](http://findocnet.fi)

4.2. Research Field Studies 15-25 ECTS

These studies are the core element of the doctoral studies, decided jointly by the doctoral candidate and her/his supervising professor.

Learning objectives

- 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

Suggested ways to complete the module

- Department's / Research field's doctoral seminar (compulsory)
- Winter/summer schools, thematic research seminars
- Other courses
- Writing essays or literature reviews (ca. 250-300 pages of research literature equals 1-2 ECTS credits). The supervising professor shall determine the amount of credits according to how extensive and demanding the literature is.
- Literature, either according to the department's literature list or as agreed with the professor
- Reflective report on art and creative practices related to thesis topic
- Conference paper/presentation
- Teaching at a university, preparing a lecture or a series of lectures on history, theory or methods of the student's own research field, thesis advising

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

Compulsory: Doctoral Seminar

Department's / Research field's doctoral seminar, min. 4 ECTS

If the doctoral candidate 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 candidates present their own research projects as well as discuss field specific theories and literature. Seminars teach academic reading, writing and discussion.

ARK-L0101 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar, 5 ECTS

DOM-L0003 Photography Doctoral Seminar, 2-6 ECTS

DOM-L0007 New Media Doctoral Seminar, 3-6 ECTS

DOM-L0008 Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L0101 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar, 2-8 ECTS

ELO-L0102 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, 4-8 ECTS

MUO-L0101 Department of Design Doctoral Seminar, 2-4 ECTS

TAI-L0001 Department of Art Doctoral Seminar, 2-4 ECTS

Optional research field specific courses

ARK-L5003 Planning Theory, 6 ECTS

ARK-L5004 Urban Studies, 6 ECTS

DOM-L0006 Department of Media Doctoral School

ELO-L0004 Artistic research writing, 2-6 ECTS

ELO-L0009 Art-Practice-led and artistic research methodologies in film, scenography & costume, 2-6 ECTS

MUO-L0010 Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 ECTS

MUO-L0011 Design Research: Fields and Practices, 2-6 ECTS

TAI-L0008 Art, environment and activism, 4 ECTS

TAI-L0009 Contemporary curating, 4 ECTS

TAI-L0010 Creative writing and other discourses, 2 ECTS

TAI-L0013 Perspectives on Art Pedagogy, 4 ECTS

TAI-L0014 Research Assemblage, 4 ECTS

ARK-E1508 Introduction to Architectural Research, 5 ECTS

ARK-E2514 Design of Structures Theory, 3-6 ECTS

ARK-E4509 Housing Design – Research and Practice, 3 ECTS

ELO-E6510 Costume and Research, 3-6 ECTS

MAR-E1006 Landscape Architecture and Research, 3-6 ECTS

MUO-E8026 Designing for Urban Governance and Services, 5-10 ECTS

MUO-E1029 Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design, 10 ECTS

MUO-E3024 User Inspired Design Knowing, 5 ECTS

MUO-E8018 Sustainability Politics, 5 ECTS

MUO-E8023 Values in Design Futures, 5 ECTS

MUO-E8026 Designing for urban governance and services, 5 ECTS

TAI-E3119 Words and Spaces Studio, 5 ECTS

Courses with varying content

In addition to the above listed courses the Doctoral Programme and each Department has the possibility to offer courses with varying content. The content and scope of these courses will be announced separately.

ARTS-LV, ARK-LV, TAI-LV, DOM-LV, ELO-LV, MUO-LV

4.3. Doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis is written on a topic related to the research field that the doctoral candidate has chosen and that has been approved by the doctoral programme committee of the School of Arts, Design and Architecture, and the supervising professor³. The thesis shall contribute to new scientific knowledge. The thesis includes a public defence after a pre-examination process. The accepted forms of theses are monographs, article-based doctoral theses, ~~essay-based doctoral theses~~, dissertations including artistic components, and other works meeting corresponding scientific criteria. A doctoral thesis is a public document and is kept for viewing at the university. All theses works are public in Finland (law 621/1999).

4.3.1. Public examination of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis shall be examined and defended at a public examination for which the School of ARTS determines the date and language and appoints a Custos to supervise the examination, and one or two opponents after the pre-examination on which you find instructions from the into.aalto.fi –pages of the programme. The doctoral candidate is provided with an opportunity to comment on the choice of the opponent(s) and the pre-examiners, concerning their impartiality.

The work or works constituting the doctoral thesis shall be on display for public examination for *a minimum of ten days* before the public examination.

The school may issue further provisions on the arrangements and proceedings of the public examination. Please see programme's into.aalto.fi –pages.

4.3.2. Evaluation and grading

No overall grades are assigned for individual study modules. Doctoral theses are graded on the following scale based on the opponent(s) statement(s) in the Doctoral Programme Committee in the School of ARTS: Pass with Distinction/Pass/Fail.

³ [Appendix 'Section 43A Degree regulations on doctoral education' in the Aalto University General Regulations on Teaching and Studying \(OOS\).](#)