

Degree structure, Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture

Taiteiden ja suunnittelun tohtoriohjelma
Doktorandprogrammet i konst, design och arkitektur

Scope of the programme: 60 ECTS + doctoral thesis
Language of the programme: Finnish, Swedish, English
Degrees: Doctor of Arts, Doctor of Science (Architecture)

Programme Director: Ossi Naukkarinen

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.

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 lead things and / or people.

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.

Research fields

Research field	Description
<i>Department of Architecture</i>	
Architecture, Landscape and Urbanism	<p>Research in architecture, landscape and urbanism studies phenomena and challenges related to a wide spectrum of scales and scopes, from design to planning, from individual buildings, open spaces and structures to the large-scale planning of cities, landscapes and regions. It is by its nature interdisciplinary, informed also by research in other relevant fields, such as technology, history and archaeology, philosophy, social sciences and ecology. Its approach is explorative and integrative, both at the core of its own fields but also in their mutual intersections.</p> <p>Contemporary research themes include building typologies and housing, material systems and principals of organization, emergent digital methodologies, wood architecture, history and conservation of urban heritage, ecosystem services and green infrastructure, communicative and participative design and planning, new uses of urban spaces, strategic planning, service architecture, landscape planning and management, and health and well-being architecture. The covering theme is sustainability, particularly its technical, environmental and socio-cultural dimensions.</p>
<i>Department of Art</i>	
Art Education	<p>Art Education is the study of the production of knowledge, beliefs, and values that takes place within and outside of schools, through the process of production and exchange. It includes historical, artistic, arts-based, philosophical, epistemological and sociopolitical research in the areas of art, pedagogy (public, critical, digital), schooling, education, philosophy, psychology, and sociology. It focuses on researching and problematizing particular ways of ordering and giving sense to different significations, and interrogates how certain art and artistic knowledge, theory, and practice becomes institutionalized and organized.</p>

Contemporary Art	The research in contemporary art is based on art practice, and/or theoretical art analysis. At the Department of art, research can be done based on artistic episteme through artistic or arts-based research, focusing on the ways in which art engages with its spatial environment, creates temporal events, encourages participation and social engagement, and develops new roles of the artist, researcher, spectator, and participants. Emergent contemporary art research includes interdisciplinary practices such as intersections of art, science, and technology, curating, and their relationships to society, environment, education and community.
Visual Culture	Visual culture is the study of images and of the various roles they play in and as culture. As a field of study, visual culture overlaps with many other fields, e.g. film studies, critical theory, art theory and philosophy, aesthetics, anthropology and media studies. At the Department of art, visual culture is researched especially in relation to contemporary art, acknowledging the limits of the visual realm and extending to other sense and areas such as material culture, new materialism, and modes such as conceptual, verbal, temporal.
<i>Department of Design</i>	
Design	Design research generates grounded and lasting knowledge on design, its practices, practitioners, outcomes, possibilities, history, role in society and its future. The research foci of the Aalto Department of Design are collaborative and human-centred design, design for sustainability and research through design practice. In addition, design management and cultural and historical studies of design are researched at the Department. The research profile combines basic research with research applied within and for industrial, public and cultural sectors.
<i>Department of Film, Television and Scenography</i>	
Film and Television	The research focus of film and television is on practice-based and artistic research within film practice, benefitting from multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks, generating new knowledge, aiming at challenging conventions and existing forms as well as catalyzing new practices in the context of different professional and artistic areas of film and television.

Scenography and Costume Design	Research in scenography and costume design involves the study of visual, spatial, embodied and sensory narratives in live performance, on film and screen. Research in this field aims at producing new artistic and theoretical knowledge, insights and approaches to the fields of performing and screen arts. It focuses on a wide range of scenographic strategies and practices, from materialism to digitalization and new technologies, and from curation to new artistic praxis, addressing questions of performativity, experience, aesthetics and philosophy in relation to design for performance.
<i>Department of Media</i>	
New Media	From an artistic and design perspective, the main research subject of the Media Lab at Aalto ARTS is digital media, with an emphasis on 'the new', how it evolves, how it is used and its potential impact on society. Research at the Media Lab engages in practical and theoretical activities, and the agenda is truly interdisciplinary, international and closely aligned to Aalto University's strategic priority in Information Communications Technology (ICT) and Media. Areas of focus include digital cultural heritage and virtual tourism; game design and development; learning environments (including new media tool design); and sound in new media.
Photography	In photography, research is conducted under three main premises, that is, the photograph as research object, the photograph as artistic result, and photography as method.
Visual Communication Design	The research in visual communication focuses on existing and new trans-media approaches that combine data-visualization, infographics, illustration, sound, and storytelling, among others, utilized for communication and expression.

Degree structure

Doctoral degree comprises of the doctoral thesis and 60 ECTS of studies. Full time studies take approximately 4 years.

I General Research Studies, 14-18 ECTS

II Studies in the Field of Research, 14-16 ECTS

III Studies supporting the research work of the student, 26-32 ECTS

Doctoral Thesis

Doctoral thesis is completed in the doctoral candidate's confirmed research field. More instructions for the requirements and form of the doctoral thesis in the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture Dissertation Instructions and in the document Doctoral Dissertation at Aalto University.

I General Research Studies, 14-18 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,

Ways to complete the module

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)

Optional courses

General courses for doctoral candidates

ARTS-L0102 Doing Research, 6 ECTS
ARTS-L0105 Practices of Presenting Research, 1-2 ECTS
ARTS-L0107 Perspectives on Research through Art and Design, 2-4 ECTS

Methods and methodology

ARTS-L0108 Methods of Gathering Qualitative Data, 4 ECTS
ARTS-L0109 Methods of Analysing Qualitative Data, 4 ECTS
TAI-L0007 Artistic and Art-Based Research, 4 ECTS
ARTS-E0605 Tools and Techniques for Analyzing Digital Data, 4 ECTS

Philosophy and theory

ARTS-L0600 Tieteenfilosofia, 4 ECTS (equivalent course in English: ARTS-L0603 Philosophy of Science)

ARTS-L0603 Philosophy of Science, 4 ECTS

ARTS-L0604 Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art for Doctoral Students, 6 ECTS

ARTS-L0605 Estetiikka ja taiteenfilosofia tohtoriopiskelijoille, 6 ECTS (equivalent course in English: ARTS-L0604 Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art for Doctoral Students)

TAI-L0006 Contemporary Theories for Art Research, 4 ECTS

ARTS-E0606 Living classics, 2 ECTS

ARTS-E0601 Tiedon ja taidon filosofia, 4 ECTS

ARTS-E0602 Argumentaatiotaidot, 2 ECTS

TAI-E3123 Philosophy of Art for Post-Contemporary Artists, 5 ECTS

Writing and presenting doctoral research

ARTS-L0105 Practices of Presenting Research, 1-2 ECTS

LCA-1030 Writing Doctoral Research (w), 3 ECTS

LCA-1031 Presenting Doctoral Research (o), 3 ECTS

ELO-L0004 Taiteellisen tutkimuksen kirjoittaminen, 2-6 ECTS (equivalent course in English: ELO-L0005 Artistic research writing, 2 ECTS) (only for doctoral candidates at ELO and Department of Art)

II Studies in the Field of Research, 14-16 ECTS

Learning objectives

- field specific knowledge of the theory, history and methods
- field specific argumentation and communication skills

Ways to complete the module

- Department's / Research field's doctoral seminar
- Winter/summer schools, thematic research seminars
- Optional 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.

Compulsory: Doctoral Seminar

Doctoral candidate has to participate in the Department's / Research field's doctoral seminar for at least 2 semesters, preferably throughout the whole studies. 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 field specific courses

ARTS-L0106 Nida Doctoral Summer School, 5 ECTS

ARK-L5000 Planning Theory and Urban Studies, 5-10 ECTS

DOM-L0004 Media Culture and Theory, 2-6 ECTS

DOM-L0006 Department of Media Doctoral School

ELO-L0003 Reading Circle, 2-6 ECTS

ELO-L0006 Theory & praxis workshop, 2-6 ECTS

ELO-L0007 Art & research reading seminar, 2-6 ECTS

ELO-L0008 Dialogues with X: Art, Film & theory workshop, 2-6 ECTS

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

ELO-L0010 Other Cinemas, 2-6 ECTS

MUO-L0002 Department of Design Winter School, 3 ECTS

MUO-L0005 Introduction to Design Research, 2 ECTS

MUO-L0007 Managing design: Reading seminar, 5 ECTS

MUO-L0008 Intersections Between Sustainability and Design, 5 ECTS

MUO-L0009 Design in Policy and Governance, 3-6 ECTS

MUO-L0010 Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 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-L0011 Introduction to intersecting Art, Science & Technology, 4 ECTS

TAI-L0012 Materiality of art and research, 3 ECTS

TAI-L0013 Perspectives on Art Pedagogy, 4 ECTS

TAI-L0014 Research Assemblage, 4 ECTS

ARK-E1504 Introduction to Architectural Research, 3 ECTS

ARK-E2509 Design of Structures Theory, 3-5 ECTS

ARK-E3003 Design of Structures Autumn Studio, 10 ECTS

ARK-E3004 Design of Structures Spring Studio, 10 ECTS

ARK-E3005 Design of Structures Tectonics Seminar, 3-5 ECTS
ARK-E4503 Housing Design – Research and Practice, 3 ECTS
DOM-E3024 Basic Issues in Media Aesthetics, 2-4 ECTS
DOM-E5103 Topics in Visualisation and Cultural Analytics, 3-6 ECTS
ELO-E6500 Costume and Research, 3 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-E1036 Critical Design, 5-10 ECTS
MUO-E3024 User Inspired Design Knowing, 5 ECTS
MUO-E3026 Strategic Co-Design, 5 ECTS
MUO-E3027 Strategic Co-Design Reading, 5 ECTS
MUO-E8018 Sustainability Politics, 5 ECTS
MUO-E8023 Values in Design Futures, 5 ECTS
TAI-E3119 Words and Spaces Studio, 5 ECTS

III Studies supporting the research work of the student, 26-32 ECTS

Learning objectives

- To give the doctoral candidate the required skills and knowledge to conduct research in their specific research topic

Ways to complete the module

- Literature, either according to the department's literature list or as agreed with the professor,
- Courses
- Conferences, workshops
- Preparing doctoral candidates own publications and articles
- Teaching at a university, preparing a lecture or a series of lecture on the history, theory or methods of the student's own research field
- Art or design productions (when the target degree is Doctor of Arts)

Researcher mobility and studies abroad are highly recommended and can be included here.

Just to participate in a conference is not enough, the student must also write a review or a report or lecture diary of it to the professor.