

# Curriculum for Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture 2024-2026

According to the Aalto University General Regulations on Teaching and Studying, a curriculum is a confirmed overall description of the learning outcomes of the degree programme, the goals and contents of the study modules, course selection and the organisation of teaching in a given period of time. The course descriptions and organization of teaching is presented in Sisu.

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## 1. Basic information on the programme

### 1.1. Name of the programme

Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture  
Taiteiden ja suunnittelun tohtoriohjelman  
Doktorandprogrammet i konst, design och arkitektur

### 1.2. Degrees of the programme

Doctor of Arts  
Doctor of Science (Architecture)

### 1.3. Languages of degree

Finnish, Swedish, or English

### 1.5. Programme scope

40 ECTS credits + doctoral thesis

### 1.6. Target time

4 years of full-time study  
8 years of part-time study

## 2. Education objectives and intended learning outcomes of the programme

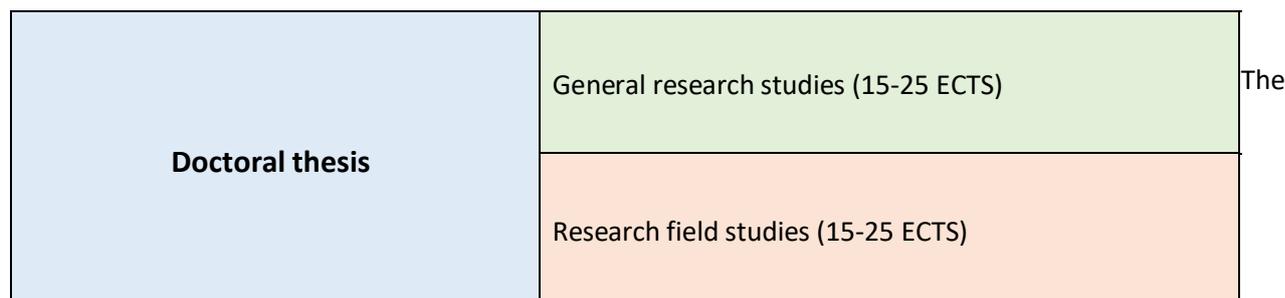
After completing the degree the doctoral student is able to carry out independent and original academic research.

Doctoral education at Aalto University is conducted within a multidisciplinary international scientific community that provides opportunities for field-specific and multidisciplinary research, as well as for various forms of education and learning. High quality education, transferable skills training, and network-building ensure the development of doctoral students as independent researchers and experts of their research fields.

The education prepares doctoral students for academic careers at top-level institutions. It provides competencies to pursue various career paths also outside of academia, for example working at demanding expert positions, as entrepreneurs or as independent artists.

The doctoral degree is a requirement to serve as a thesis advisor for doctoral students and as examiner for a doctoral degree.

### 3. Structure of the programme



programme comprises three study modules:

- General research studies, 15–25 ECTS
- Research field studies, 15–25 ECTS
- Doctoral thesis

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 and prepares them for the dissemination of research findings.

In addition to the courses taught at the School in Arts, Design and Architecture, the degree can include other courses taught in Aalto University or other universities, as agreed in the doctoral personal study plan of the student (DPSP).

Based on the curriculum, doctoral students must prepare a doctoral personal study plan (DPSP), which includes plans for the contents, scope and duration of their studies, research, supervision, funding and career. Students who wish to deviate from the confirmed curriculum of their programme must obtain approval for their doctoral personal study plan.

#### 3.1 General research studies

##### 3.1.1 Intended learning outcomes

Depending on the studies chosen for this module, doctoral students will be able to

- to comprehend and conscientiously address the fundamental ethical and sustainability considerations associated with their research.
- choose and apply appropriate research methods to the research question at hand
- adhere to the principles of responsible conduct of research (RCR) in both their research work and interactions within the research community
- work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary and international environment, engaging with diverse stakeholders.
- proficiently present their research in both scientific and professional settings.
- identify, utilize and communicate their transferable skills, such as communication, interpersonal, project management, leadership and pedagogical skills, to work successfully in academic and other professional positions.

### 3.1.2 Degree requirements

#### **Compulsory courses**

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

**LC-L1000 Research Ethics for Doctoral Students, 2 ECTS**

**ARTS-L0102 Doing Research, 6 ECTS**

#### **Elective courses**

##### *Responsible conduct of research*

LC-1333 Navigate your doctoral studies while learning about equity, diversity, and inclusion, 3 ECTS

LC-L1011 Open Science for Doctoral Students, 1 ECTS

LC-L1020 Theory of Science, 1 ECTS

##### *General methodological and theoretical studies*

ARTS-L0110 Research through Art and Design, 2-4 ECTS

ARTS-L0111 Methods of Qualitative Research, 6 ECTS

AXM-L1006 Artistic and Art-Based Research, 4 ECTS

MNGT-L2200 Philosophy of Social Sciences, 6 ECTS

ARTS-L0606 Knowing Aesthetics, 6 ECTS

ARTS-A0623 Global Perspectives: Re-mapping the History of Art, 3 ECTS

ARTS-E0711 Sculpture Now!, 6 ECTS

##### *Science communication and presenting doctoral research*

ELO-L1001 Artistic research writing, 3-6 ECTS

LC-L1050 Writing doctoral research for Arts, 3 ECTS

LC-1335 Preparing for the Doctoral Defense (o), 1 credits

LC-1336 Popularize your Research (o,w), 1-3 credits

LC-7110 Tieteellinen kirjoittaminen tohtoriopiskelijoille, 3 ECTS

LC-L1017 Asiantuntijaesittämisen valmennus jatko-opiskelijoille, 3 op

LC-L1018 Tutkimusraportoinnin tekstireitit jatko-opiskelijoille, 3 op

LC-L1019 Tutkimustiedon yleistajuistaminen, 3 op

LC-1330 Presenting Doctoral Research (o), 3 credits

##### *Scientific community and working life skills*

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

PED-9011 A! Peda Intro (5 op)

ARTS-L2040 University practices I D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS -L2041 University practices II D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS -L2020 Academic advising I D, 1 ECTS

ARTS -L2021 Academic advising II D, 1 ECTS  
ARTS -L2030 Teaching at higher education I D, 1-3 ECTS  
ARTS -L2031 Teaching at higher education II D, 1-3 ECTS  
ARTS -L2050 Reviewing a scientific manuscript I D, 1 ECTS  
ARTS -L2051 Reviewing a scientific manuscript II D, 1 ECTS

### ***Finnish courses***

Maximum of 6<sup>1</sup> ECTS of Finnish/Swedish courses (minimum level A1) from Aalto University Language Centre can be included in the degree under General Research Studies.

For example:

LC-7210 Finnish 1, 3 ECTS  
LC-7220 Finnish 2, 3 ECTS

## 3.2. Research field studies

The Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture comprises of research fields/majors confirmed by the Academic Committee of the School. The research fields and their descriptions can be found here: (link to be added).

### 3.2.1 Intended learning outcomes

After completing this module, the doctoral student will be able to:

- demonstrate advanced discipline-specific knowledge.
- identify essential research methods for their own research and apply them proficiently.
- disseminate research findings through relevant research forums and to the wider public.

### 3.2.2. Degree requirements

#### **Compulsory courses**

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

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. 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.

ARK-L9010 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)  
ARK-L9011 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar B, 3 ECTS  
ARK-L9012 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar C, 3 ECTS  
ARK-L9013 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar D, 3 ECTS

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<sup>1</sup> This used to be 5 ECTS, but due to Language Centre's credit scope policy, the max. scope should be divisible by 3

AXM-L9010 New Media Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)

AXM-L9011 New Media Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

AXM-L9018 Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)

AXM-L9019 Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

AXM-L9026 Art Education Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)

AXM-L9027 Art Education Doctoral Seminar B, 3 ECTS

AXM-L9028 - Contemporary Art, Photography and Visual Culture Doctoral Seminar A (compulsory)

AXM-L9029 - Contemporary Art, Photography and Visual Culture Doctoral Seminar B

ELO-L9010 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)

ELO-L9011 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar B, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L9012 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar C, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L9013 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar D, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L9014 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, A, 3-6 ECTS (compulsory)

ELO-L9015 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, B, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L9016 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, C, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L9017 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, D, 3-6 ECTS

MUO-L9010 Department of Design Doctoral Seminar A, 3 ECTS (compulsory)

### ***Optional doctoral courses***

#### *Methodological, theoretical and content studies (related to the thesis)*

ARTS-L2060 Literature I, 1-5 ECTS

ARTS-L2061 Literature II, 1-5 ECTS

ARTS-L2080 Summer or Winter Schools I D, 1-6 ECTS

ARTS-L2081 Summer or Winter Schools II D, 1-6 ECTS

ARTS-L2090 Art Production I D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS-L2091 Art Production II D, 1-3 ECTS

ARK-L5003 Planning Theory, 6 ECTS

ARK-L5004 Urban Studies, 6 ECTS

AXM-L1000 Department of Art and Media Doctoral School, 2-6 ECTS

ELO-L1004 Art-Practice-led and artistic research methodologies in film, scenography & costume, 3-6 ECTS

ELO-L1005 Artistic and practice-based reading seminar, 3-6 ECTS

MUO-L1000 Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 ECTS

MUO-L1001 Positioning in the Fields and Practices of Design Research, 2 ECTS

MUO-L1002 Analysing Doctoral Theses in Design, 2 ECTS

AXM-L1003 Curating and its Futures, 6 ECTS

AXM-L1004 Perspectives on Art Pedagogy, 6 ECTS

### *Disseminating research results*

ARTS-L2070 Publishing research results I D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS-L2071 Publishing research results II D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS-L2010 Presenting research at a conference I D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS-L2011 Presenting research at a conference II D, 1-3 ECTS

ARTS-L2012 Presenting research at a conference III D, 1-3 ECTS

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

ARK-E1520 Introduction to Architectural Research 6 cr

ARK-E4509 Housing Design – Research and Practice D, 3cr

AXM-E3009 - Art & Science Lectures

ELO-E6513 Costume and Research 6 cr

MAR-E1066 Maisema-arkkitehtuurin tutkimus 3cr

MUO-E1071 Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design 9-12cr

MUO-E3057 User Inspired Design - Knowing 6 cr

MUO-E3065 Design for Social Change - Participation 6 cr

MUO-E8040 Issues in Sustainability Politics 6 cr

MUO-E8050 Values & Designs 6 cr

### 3.3 Doctoral thesis

After successfully defending their thesis, doctoral students will demonstrate the ability to:

- plan, execute, and report on their research and manage their data in accordance with established standards of academic research.
- proficiently search for, critically evaluate, apply, and synthesize existing knowledge; formulate research questions; and employ scientific research methods to create new knowledge.
- independently carry out research that generates novel insights and theoretical advancements in their own field of research.
- make syntheses and critical assessments required for addressing and resolving complex problems in the realms of research, innovation, and societal challenges.
- In the field of arts, doctoral students may also have the ability to independently create methods/products/ performances that are of high standards of art and creative practice.

## 4. Extracurricular studies

The degree structure of the programme in Sisu also includes a module called “Extracurriculum studies”. This module will not be included in the doctoral degree, but it can be used to register for courses which the doctoral student wishes to take in addition to their degree studies. These can be e.g.

Finnish as a foreign language: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/finnish-as-a-second-language-and-as-a-foreign-language>

Language and communication courses for doctoral students: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/courses-for-doctoral-students>

Other language and communication studies: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/teaching>

Researcher and working life skills: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/doctoral-courses-and-curriculum#2-researcher-and-transferable-skills-courses>

## 5. 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.