

# Regulations relating to the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD) at OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University

## Chapter 1. Introductory provisions

### Section 1-1. *Scope*

The regulations apply to the doctoral education leading to the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD) at OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University, hereinafter referred to as “OsloMet”. The regulations stipulate the rules relating to admission, execution and completion of the doctoral education.

### Section 1-2. *Terms*

The PhD degree is also referred to as a *doctorate or doctoral degree*.

The PhD programmes are hereinafter referred to as doctoral degree programmes.

The terms *doctoral education* and *organised research training* are used in the regulations.

The terms *doctoral work* and *doctoral project* are used with reference to the work undertaken within the contractual period between the starting date and the completion date, excluding the training element.

The term *scientific thesis or thesis* denotes the result of the scientific doctoral work.

*PhD candidate or candidate* is used to refer to the individual admitted to the doctoral education programme at OsloMet, regardless of the terms of employment, and this individual shall be subject to the provisions set out in the regulations.

*Contract period* corresponds to the funding period, including any extensions resulting from periods of statutory or contractual leave of absence and sick leave.

*Admission period* refers to the period in which the candidate is enrolled at the University and includes the period after the contract period, if the individual is granted extended admission beyond the expiration of the contract period.

The term *career-enhancing work* replaces the term required duties, which was previously used.

### Section 1-3. *Objectives, scope and content of the doctoral education*

(1) OsloMet shall train independent researchers at a high international level in accordance with scientific and research ethics standards. Through the doctoral education, the candidate will acquire knowledge, skills and expertise in line with the national qualifications framework for lifelong learning.

(2) The education has been standardised as three (3) years of full-time study. The PhD degree shall be awarded on the basis of:

- a. Approved training element
- b. Approved scientific thesis
- c. Approved trial lecture

- d. Approved public defence of thesis (disputation).

#### **Section 1-4. *Responsibility for organised research training***

- (1) The University Board has the overall responsibility for doctoral education, including the right to make decisions relating to the establishment or discontinuation of doctoral degree programmes.
- (2) The University Board will determine the faculties/centres that will assume academic and administrative responsibility for the doctoral degree programme.
- (3) The Rector, or an individual authorised by the Rector, may establish guidelines and supplementary provisions within the framework of these regulations.
- (4) The Faculty may adopt supplementary guidelines and provisions that do not conflict with the provisions set out in these regulations. The Faculty/Centre responsible for managing the doctoral degree programme shall determine programme descriptions and course plans within the framework set out by the University Board, cf. Section 1-4 (1). In cases where the right to make decisions has been assigned to a faculty/centre, decisions shall be made by the Dean/Head of Centre or the body authorised by the Dean/Head of Centre.

#### **Section 1-5. *The candidate's responsibility***

The rules applicable to researchers and the code of conduct for research at OsloMet apply to doctoral candidates.

#### **Section 1-6. *Quality assurance***

Organised research training is subject to the OsloMet quality assurance system. The Faculty/Centre shall quality-assure doctoral degree programmes in accordance with this system.

## **Chapter 2. Admission**

#### **Section 2-1. *Conditions for admission***

The Faculty/Centre shall have admission authority for its own doctoral degree programmes, including individual courses at PhD level.

For admission to organised research training, applicants must normally hold a relevant scientific master's degree worth 120 or 300 credits that satisfies the requirements set out in the regulations relating to the requirement to hold a master's degree and the descriptions set out in the second cycle of the qualifications framework. Subject to special (academic) assessment, the University may recognise other equivalent education, including a completed programme of professional study, as the basis for admission, cf. Chapter 9 of the act relating to universities and university colleges.

The applicant must be able to document a strong academic background from a previous course of study, normally with an achieved grade of B or better for the master's degree.

The Faculty/Centre may impose additional qualification requirements based on criteria that are openly accessible and in line with the applicable recruitment policy and academic profile.

Private funding is not normally accepted as the basis for admission to organised research training, cf. Section 2-2.

#### **Section 2-2. *The application***

- (1) The application shall include:
  - a. Documentation of the education that will form the basis for admission.
  - b. A project description or similar document that includes:
    - an academic/scientific account of the project
    - a progress schedule for the execution of the doctoral degree project

- any plans for visiting another institution
  - academic/scientific dissemination
- c. Documentation of funding.
  - d. Plan for the training element.
  - e. Proposal for at least one academic supervisor.
  - f. An account of any legal and ethical issues raised by the project.
  - g. Information about any intellectual property right restrictions to safeguard the rights of others.
  - h. Information about whether the project depends on authorisation from research ethics committees or other authorities or private parties. If such authorisations have already been obtained for the project at the time of application, these should be enclosed with the application.
  - i. Data management plan, if applicable.
  - j. Specification of the language in which the thesis will be written.
  - k. Documentation of any special needs for academic/scientific and material resources.
  - l. Information about the intended main place of work.
- (2) The Faculty/Centre may impose requirements for further documentation.
  - (3) An application for admission to the organised research training should normally be submitted within 3 months of starting the research project that will lead to the doctoral degree.

### **Section 2-3. Infrastructure**

- (1) The candidate must have access to the necessary infrastructure to execute the doctoral project.
- (2) The Faculty/Centre shall decide what constitutes the necessary infrastructure for execution. For candidates with external funding or external employment, a contract shall be entered into between OsloMet and the external party in connection with each research project.
- (3) As a general rule, such contracts must be in place at the time that the admission decision for the candidate in question is made or immediately thereafter, cf. Section 2-5 (4).

### **Section 2-4. Admission decision**

- (1) The Faculty/Centre shall consider applications for admission and shall make decisions based on a comprehensive assessment of the application, in which academic qualifications shall be assigned the greatest emphasis. A prerequisite, but not a guarantee of admission, is that the requirements set out in Sections 2-1 and 2-3 are met and that the Faculty/Centre has the capacity to provide academic supervision. The main academic supervisor and any co-supervisors, as well as the start and end date, shall be specified in the decision. The start date of the contract period shall normally coincide with the funding period start date. The decision shall allocate responsibility for managing any other needs outlined in the application. The Faculty/Centre may stipulate requirements relating to residency (duty to be physically present in the academic or research group).
- (2) The Faculty/Centre may stipulate ranking criteria when the number of qualified applicants exceeds the admission capacity.
- (3) Admission shall be refused if:
  - a) the conditions set out in Section 2-1 have not been met
  - b) the academic/scientific quality is not satisfactory
  - c) contracts with external third parties preclude the publication and public defence of the thesis
  - d) the contracts relating to intellectual property rights that have been entered into are so unreasonable that the University should not contribute to the project
  - e) less than one (1) year of full-time work on the research project remains on the application date
  - f) the project cannot feasibly be completed within the funding period
  - g) there is insufficient funding to complete the project

### **Section 2-5. The doctoral contract**

- (1) Admission to organised research training at OsloMet is formalised through the standard contract for admission adopted by the University. The contract shall be signed by the candidate, the academic supervisor(s) and the Faculty/Centre to which the candidate has been admitted. The contract shall govern the parties' rights and obligations during the admission period. The contract shall govern factors designed to ensure that the candidate regularly participates in an active and relevant research community.
- (2) For doctoral candidates with funding from, employment with or other contributions from an external party, a separate contract shall also be entered into between the candidate, the University and the external party.
- (3) In the event of cooperation relating to training and joint supervision of candidates, a separate contract shall be entered into for each candidate (Cotutelle agreement).
- (4) The Faculty/Centre shall, in consultation with the candidate, determine the infrastructure that will be offered by the University for the execution of organised research training, cf. Section 2-3.

### **Section 2-6. The contract period**

- (1) The contract period shall follow the standardised time for the qualification, cf. Section 1-3 (2) of these regulations.
- (2) In the event of statutory and contractual interruptions, the contract period shall be extended correspondingly.
- (3) The Faculty/Centre may extend the contract period and/or admission period subject to a satisfactory reasoned request. The request must include a progress schedule and must be submitted by recommendation from an academic supervisor. In the event that an extension is granted, the Faculty/Centre may impose additional conditions. Any extension to the contract period must be related to labour rights or be separately agreed in relation to the candidate's funding conditions.
- (4) As a general rule, the candidate shall not be entitled to an extension of the contract period and/or admission period beyond six years from the start date pursuant to Section 2-4 (1). Statutory and contractual interruptions and career-enhancing work shall not be included in the six years. Stricter requirements relating to progress during the course of the programme may be imposed in the supplementary regulations for the doctoral degree programme.
- (5) After the expiration of the contract period and/or admission period, the parties' rights and obligations under the doctoral agreement shall lapse. The PhD candidate may lose their right to academic supervision, teaching and access to University infrastructure. Nevertheless, the candidate can still apply to submit their thesis for grading for the PhD degree.

### **Section 2-7. Notification requirement relating to research results**

- (1) Candidates employed by OsloMet are subject to a notification requirement relating to research results with the potential for commercial exploitation in accordance with the *Intellectual Property Rights Policy at OsloMet*.
- (2) For candidates employed by external parties, a corresponding notification requirement shall be incorporated in the contract entered into between the University, the candidate and the external employer.
- (3) For candidates who are not employed, a corresponding notification requirement shall be incorporated in the doctoral contract between the University and the candidate.

### **Section 2-8. Voluntary termination**

The candidate and the University may agree to terminate the organised research training before the expiration of the contract period. In the event of such termination, any arrangements relating to employment, funding, rights to results, data, etc. shall be agreed in writing.

### **Section 2-9. Involuntary termination**

- (1) The Student Affairs Committee may make decisions concerning involuntary termination of doctoral education if a doctoral candidate has acted unethically pursuant to Section 8-2 of the Norwegian Research Ethics Act, cf. Section 13-2 (1) of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act.
- (2) The Faculty/Centre may make decisions concerning involuntary termination of the organised research training if the candidate materially fails to fulfil their obligations under the doctoral contract, pursuant to Section 13-2 (2) of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act.
- (3) In the event of involuntary termination pursuant to Section 13-2 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act, the candidate's rights and obligations under the doctoral contract shall lapse, cf. Section 2-6 (5).

## **Chapter 3. Execution**

### **Section 3-1. *Academic supervisors***

- (1) The Faculty/Centre shall appoint academic supervisors. As a general rule, candidates should have two academic supervisors, one of whom shall be appointed as the main academic supervisor. The Faculty/Centre shall be responsible for immediately appointing a new academic supervisor in the event of long-term illness, leave of absence, etc.
- (2) The main academic supervisor shall have the main academic responsibility for the candidate and shall normally have their main employment at the University. If the Faculty/Centre appoints an external main academic supervisor, a co-supervisor who normally has their main employment at the University shall be appointed.
- (3) Co-supervisors are specialists who provide academic supervision and share the academic responsibility for the candidate with the main academic supervisor.
- (4) All academic supervisors shall hold a doctoral degree or professorship within the field and shall also be actively involved in research. At least one of the academic supervisors appointed shall have previous experience of academic supervision.
- (5) The candidate and academic supervisor may, together or independently, ask the Faculty/Centre to consider appointing a new academic supervisor for the candidate. The academic supervisor may not step down from the role before a new academic supervisor has been appointed.
- (6) The impartiality rules set out in Section 6 to Section 10 of the Norwegian Public Administration Act apply to academic supervisors.
- (7) The code of conduct for academic supervision at OsloMet applies to academic supervisors.
- (8) The Faculty/Centre shall settle any disputes relating to the rights and obligations of academic supervisors and candidates.

### **Section 3-2. *Scope of academic supervision***

- (1) The work on the doctoral thesis shall be subject to academic supervision.
- (2) Academic supervisors have a duty to keep up-to-date with the progress of the candidate's work and assess progress in relation to the progress schedule contained in the project description. Academic supervisors have a duty to follow up on academic matters that could lead to the delayed completion of the organised research training. The main academic supervisor shall be responsible for informing the responsible body at the University of impending thesis submission.
- (3) Academic supervisors shall provide the candidate with advice and guidance in all phases of the work on the thesis, including guidance on research ethics issues related to the thesis.

### **Section 3-3. *Reporting and mid-way evaluation***

- (1) During the admission period, the candidate shall submit annual written reports to the Faculty/Centre concerning their progress in the organised research training. The main academic supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that a separate annual report is submitted to the Faculty/Centre. The scope of the academic supervision should be presented in the annual progress report.
- (2) All PhD candidates shall complete a mid-way evaluation and this should normally take place halfway through the contract period.
- (3) The candidate and the main academic supervisor shall share equal responsibility for the reporting. Insufficient or incomplete progress reporting on the part of the candidate may result in involuntary termination before the expiration of the contract period and/or admission period. Academic supervisors who fail to follow up on the reporting requirement may have their academic supervision responsibilities withdrawn.
- (4) The Faculty/Centre shall be responsible for following up on any omissions and may, if necessary, request further information.

## **Chapter 4. Training element**

### **Section 4-1. *Purpose***

The Faculty/Centre is responsible for ensuring that the training element, combined with the work on the thesis, results in qualifications of a high academic standard, with the completion of a scientific work, training in academic dissemination and training in research ethics, philosophy of science and scientific methods. Together with research activities, the training shall contribute to the candidate achieving the learning outcomes set out in the programme description for the doctoral degree programme.

### **Section 4-2. *Content and scope***

- (1) The training element shall correspond to at least 30 credits, of which at least 20 credits shall be completed after admission, as a general rule. Courses completed prior to admission to the doctoral degree programme may, following application and academic assessment, be recognised for inclusion in the training element. The courses should not be more than two (2) years old at the time of admission. Courses that formed part of a candidate's bachelor's degree or master's degree cannot also be included in the training element.
- (2) The candidate may request changes to the training element in the doctoral contract. Such a request shall be drawn up in consultation with the main academic supervisor and will be decided upon by the Faculty/Centre.
- (3) If the University does not arrange the entire training element itself, arrangements shall be made to ensure that the candidate receives corresponding training at other institutions.
- (4) The Faculty/Centre shall make decisions relating to requests for accreditation and specific recognition of the training element pursuant to Chapter 9 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act.

### **Section 4-3. *The candidate's rights in the event of leave of absence***

- (1) Candidates who take parental leave from organised research training shall still be able to follow teaching and sit examinations in courses that form part of the training element during the period of leave.
- (2) Candidates with external employment shall be required to ensure that the Faculty is informed of any leave, the extent of career-enhancing work and other factors of relevance to the progress of the doctoral work.

### **Section 4-4. *Examination offences, cheating during tests or activities during organised research training***

- (1) The provisions relating to examination offences and cheating shall follow Section 12-4 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act, cf. Section 13-1. The Rector shall stipulate separate guidelines for the consideration of cases relating to examination offences, cheating and attempted cheating in organised research training.

(2) The consequences of examination offences, cheating or attempted cheating shall be governed pursuant to Section 12-4 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act, cf. Section 13, and shall be considered by the Student Affairs Committee at OsloMet.

## **Chapter 5. Doctoral thesis**

### **Section 5-1. Requirements relating to the thesis**

- (1) The thesis shall be an independent scientific work that meets international standards.
- (2) The thesis shall contribute to the development of new knowledge and shall be of a standard that indicates that it can be published as part of the scientific literature relating to the field.
- (3) The thesis may consist of a monograph or compilation of several shorter works. If the thesis consists of several shorter works, the correlation between these shall be explained in an introductory element (summary).
- (4) A joint thesis may be submitted for evaluation by multiple candidates, provided that individual contributions can be identified.
- (5) The candidates shall follow the standards for co-authorship that are generally accepted in the research community and shall comply with international standards.
- (6) The Faculty/Centre shall decide which languages can be used in a thesis.

### **Section 5-2. Work that is not accepted**

- (1) Work or parts of a work that has been accepted as the basis for the candidate's previous examinations, assessments or grades cannot be accepted for assessment unless the work constitutes part of the training element for the PhD degree and is included as a smaller component in a thesis. Data, analyses or methods from previous degrees can still be used as the basis for the work on the doctoral project.
- (2) When using published works, these cannot be accepted as part of the thesis if the publication date is more than five years back in time at the time of admission. The Faculty/Centre may waive this requirement in the event of extraordinary circumstances.
- (3) The thesis may only be submitted for assessment at a single institution.

### **Section 5-3. Right of ownership of results**

- (1) For PhD candidates employed by OsloMet, the rights to results produced in connection with the doctoral work shall be governed in the employment contract and in accordance with the *Intellectual Property Rights Policy at OsloMet*.
- (2) For PhD candidates employed by an external party, the main rule is that the ownership of results shall follow what has been agreed between the PhD candidate and their employer.
- (3) The ownership of results between OsloMet and external parties shall be governed by the doctoral contract and shall be in accordance with the *Intellectual Property Rights Policy at OsloMet*.

## **Chapter 6. Assessment of the thesis**

### **Section 6-1. Submission of the thesis**

- (1) The training element must be approved by the Faculty/Centre before the candidate can request assessment of the thesis.
- (2) The request shall include:
  - a. A thesis submitted in a standardised format and as stipulated in the programme description for the doctoral degree programme.

- b. Documentation of the training element having been completed and approved.
  - c. Documentation of any required authorisations and permits.
  - d. Co-author declarations if required, cf. Sections 5-1 (4) and (5).
  - e. Declaration on whether the doctoral work is being submitted for assessment for the first or second time.
  - f. Declaration that the doctoral work has not been submitted for assessment at another institution.
- (3) A submitted work cannot be withdrawn before it has been finally determined whether the thesis is adequate for defence for the PhD degree.

### **Section 6-2. *Considering requests***

The Faculty/Centre may reject requests for the assessment of a thesis if:

- a. the request does not meet the requirements set out in Section 6-1 of these regulations.
- b. it is clear that the scientific quality of the thesis is not high enough and that the thesis would be rejected by a committee.

### **Section 6-3. *Appointing the assessment committee***

- (1) Once the Faculty/Centre has approved the request for assessment of the thesis, the Faculty/Centre shall appoint an expert committee comprising at least three members to assess the thesis, trial lecture and public defence. A chair shall be selected from the members of the committee. It should not normally take more than 4 weeks from the request being approved until the committee has been appointed.
- (2) The assessment committee shall normally be composed in such a way that:
- a. both genders are represented
  - b. at least one member is not affiliated with the University
  - c. at least one member has their main post at an international institution
  - d. all members hold a doctoral degree or possess equivalent expertise
  - e. the majority of the assessment committee are external members.

A justification shall be provided if any of the criteria are waived.

Academic supervisors and others who have contributed to the thesis cannot serve as members of the assessment committee. The impartiality rules in Section 6 of the Norwegian Public Administration Act shall apply to members of the committee.

- (3) The Faculty/Centre's proposed committee composition must be justified and must show how the committee collectively covers the field of study of the thesis.
- (4) The candidate shall be notified of the proposed committee and may submit written remarks no later than one week after the candidate has been notified of the proposal. The Faculty/Centre shall be free to decide whether or not to take the remarks into account.
- (5) In the event that a member leaves the committee, the Faculty/Centre may appoint a deputy member to the assessment committee.

### **Section 6-4. *The work of the assessment committee***

The assessment of the thesis may have the following outcomes:

- a) Approved: Thesis considered ready for recommendation and of adequate quality for public defence, cf. Section 6-8 (2)
- b) Revise thesis: The PhD candidate may be asked to make minor revisions in accordance with Section 6-6 before the assessment committee presents a final recommendation
- c) Not approved: Thesis not considered to be of adequate quality for public defence, cf. Section 6-8 (4)

### **Section 6-5. *Obtaining supplementary information***



- (1) The assessment committee may request that the candidate presents background materials and supplementary or explanatory additional information.
- (2) The assessment committee may ask the academic supervisor to provide an account of the academic supervision and work on the thesis.

#### **Section 6-6. *Revising a submitted thesis***

- (1) On the basis of the submitted thesis and any additional materials, the assessment committee may recommend that the Faculty/Centre permits minor revisions before a final recommendation can be made. The committee shall provide a written specification of what the candidate needs to revise.
- (2) If the Faculty/Centre permits minor revisions to the thesis, a deadline shall be established for such revision work, which should not normally be longer than 3 months.

#### **Section 6-7. *Correction of formal errors in the thesis***

- (1) Following approval, the candidate may request permission from the Faculty/Centre once to correct formal errors in the version of the thesis that will be published.
- (2) An errata list shall be enclosed with the request, showing the corrections the candidate wishes to make to the thesis.
- (3) The deadline for requesting correction of formal errors shall be one week after the recommendation has been received by the candidate. The errata list shall be enclosed as an appendix to the thesis published prior to the public defence, cf. Section 6-12. The assessment committee shall be notified of the approval and content of the errata list prior to the public defence.

### **Section 6-8. *The assessment committee's recommendation***

- (1) The assessment committee's recommendation shall normally be available within 3 months of the committee receiving the thesis. If the committee permits revision of the thesis pursuant to Section 6-6, a new deadline shall take effect from the date on which the thesis is resubmitted.
- (2) The assessment committee shall submit a recommendation as to whether the thesis is of adequate quality for defence for the PhD degree. Reasoning shall be included for the recommendation and any dissent.
- (3) The assessment committee's recommendation shall be presented to the candidate. The candidate has a deadline of 10 working days to submit written remarks on the recommendation. If the candidate does not wish to submit remarks, the Faculty must be notified of this in writing without undue delay.
- (4) If the committee finds that significant changes relating to theories, hypotheses, materials or methods are necessary for the work to be recommended for public defence, the committee shall not approve the thesis.

### **Section 6-9. *The Faculty/Centre's consideration of the assessment committee's recommendation***

- (1) On the basis of the assessment committee's recommendation, the Faculty/Centre shall decide whether the doctoral thesis is of adequate quality for public defence.
- (2) If the Faculty/Centre finds that there is reasonable doubt concerning the committee's recommendation or if the committee submits a split recommendation, the Faculty/Centre may request further clarification from the assessment committee and/or appoint two new experts to submit individual statements concerning the thesis.

Any supplementary statements or individual statements shall be presented to the candidate, who shall have the opportunity to submit remarks.

### **Section 6-10. *Thesis not approved and submission for reassessment***

- (1) The revised version of a scientific thesis that was found not to be of adequate quality for defence may be assessed no earlier than six (6) months after the Faculty/Centre makes its decision.
- (2) The Faculty/Centre shall then appoint a new assessment committee. The new assessment committee shall carry out its assessment on independent grounds. Reassessment may only take place once.
- (3) The candidate shall, in the event of a new request for assessment, state that the work has previously been assessed and found not to be of adequate quality for defence, cf. Section 6-1.

### **Section 6-11. *Requirements relating to the submission of the thesis***

- (1) Once the thesis has been found to be of adequate quality for defence, the candidate shall submit the thesis to the Faculty/Centre in the approved format and in accordance with the Faculty/Centre's provisions.
- (2) The candidate shall submit a brief summary of the thesis in English and Norwegian. If the thesis is written in another language, a summary shall also be submitted in the language of the thesis. Like the thesis itself, the summary shall be published.

### **Section 6-12. *Publication of the thesis***

- (1) The thesis shall be publicly available no later than two weeks before the public defence. The thesis shall be published in the same format submitted for assessment, with any revisions made on the basis of the preliminary comments from the assessment committee or corrections performed in accordance with the approved errata list.
- (2) No restrictions may be placed on the publication of a doctoral thesis, with the exception of a pre-agreed postponement of the publication date. Such a postponement may take place in order for the University and any external party that has fully or partly funded the doctoral degree to consider patenting. External parties cannot demand that all or parts of the thesis are not published.
- (3) When publishing the thesis, the candidate shall comply with the applicable guidelines for the crediting of scientific publications to institutions. The University shall be credited in the publication if it has made a

necessary and significant contribution to the published work. The candidate shall also credit other institutions if these individually satisfy the contribution requirement.

## **Chapter 7. Doctoral examination**

### **Section 7-1. Trial lecture**

- (1) After the thesis has been approved for defence, the candidate shall deliver a trial lecture. The trial lecture constitutes an independent part of the doctoral examination and shall cover a given subject that is not based directly on the topic of the thesis. The purpose is to test the candidate's ability to acquire knowledge beyond the topic of the thesis and their ability to disseminate such knowledge in a lecture situation.
- (2) The assessment committee shall decide on the subject of the trial lecture and shall carry out the assessment. The title of the trial lecture shall normally be announced to the candidate ten working days before the lecture.
- (3) The trial lecture shall normally be delivered in person at OsloMet's premises, but may be delivered digitally or using a hybrid approach if required.
- (4) In the event that members of the assessment committee are unable to attend the trial lecture, the Faculty/Centre may appoint deputy members, cf. Section 6-3 (5), provided that at least one committee member participates in both the trial lecture and the public defence.
- (5) The trial lecture shall be delivered in the same language as the thesis, unless the Faculty/Centre accepts the use of another language by recommendation from the assessment committee.
- (6) The assessment committee shall submit its recommendation as to whether or not the trial lecture should be approved to the Faculty/Centre. Reasoning shall be provided if the trial lecture is not approved.
- (7) If the trial lecture is not approved, the candidate shall have one opportunity to deliver a new trial lecture. The new trial lecture shall cover a different subject and shall be delivered no later than six months after the initial attempt. This lecture will normally be assessed by the same committee as the original lecture.

### **Section 7-2. Public defence of the thesis (disputation)**

- (1) The public defence of the thesis shall take place after the trial lecture has been approved and normally within 2 months of the Faculty/Centre finding that the thesis is of adequate quality for defence.
- (2) The time and place of the public defence shall be published at least ten working days in advance.
- (3) As a general rule, disputations should be held in person at OsloMet's premises, but may be carried out digitally or using a hybrid approach in special cases.
- (4) The public defence shall be delivered in the same language as the thesis, unless the Faculty/Centre accepts the use of another language by recommendation from the assessment committee.

### **Section 7-3. Performing the disputation**

- (1) There should normally be two opponents. The two opponents should be members of the assessment committee and should be appointed by the Faculty/Centre.
- (2) In the event that members of the assessment committee are unable to attend the disputation, the Faculty/Centre may appoint deputy members, cf. Section 6-3 (5), provided that at least one committee member participates in both the trial lecture and the disputation.
- (3) The public defence shall be chaired by the Dean/Head of Centre or someone authorised by the Dean/Head of Centre. The person responsible for chairing the disputation shall provide a brief report on the submission and the assessment of the thesis and the trial lecture. The candidate shall subsequently explain the purpose and results of the scientific investigation. The first opponent shall initiate the opposition and the second opponent shall conclude the opposition. When both opponents have completed their oppositions, those present may be given the opportunity to comment *ex auditorio*. One of the opponents shall conclude the opposition and the chair of the disputation shall conclude the disputation.
- (4) The Faculty/Centre may stipulate a different allocation of responsibilities, if desired.

#### **Section 7-4. Approval of disputation**

- (1) The assessment committee shall submit its recommendation as to whether or not the disputation should be approved to the Faculty/Centre. Reasoning shall be provided if the recommendation is for the disputation not to be approved.
- (2) The Faculty/Centre shall make its decision on the approval of the doctoral examination on the basis of the assessment committee's recommendation.
- (3) If the disputation is not approved, the PhD candidate must be given one opportunity to defend the thesis again. A new disputation cannot be held until 6 months have passed and should, if possible, be assessed by the same committee as for the original disputation.

#### **Section 7-5. Conferment and degree certificates**

- (1) On the basis of the Faculty/Centre's report on the approved training element, thesis, trial lecture and disputation, the Faculty/Centre shall confer the degree of philosophiae doctor on the candidate.
- (2) Degree certificates are issued by OsloMet in line with the regulations applicable at any time. The degree certificate shall include information about the academic training in which the candidate has participated.
- (3) The University shall issue supplements to the degree certificate in line with the applicable Diploma Supplement guidelines.

### **Chapter 8. Appeals and entry into force**

#### **Section 8-1. Appeals**

- (1) Rejected applications for admission, requests for recognition of elements in the training element and other individual decisions may be appealed to the Student Affairs Committee pursuant to the rules set out in Section 28 onwards of the Norwegian Public Administration Act.
- (2) Rejected requests for assessment of a thesis and decisions not to approve a thesis, trial lecture or defence may be appealed to the Student Affairs Committee pursuant to the rules set out in Section 28 onwards of the Norwegian Public Administration Act.
- (3) Decisions regarding involuntary termination pursuant to the rules set out in Section 13-2 (2) of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act may be appealed to the Student Affairs Committee.
- (4) Decisions regarding involuntary termination pursuant to the rules set out in Section 13-2 (1) of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act may be appealed to the Ministry.

#### **Section 8-2. Appealing an examination in the training element**

Candidates who have sat an examination during the training element may appeal the grading pursuant to the rules set out in Section 11-10 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act and procedural errors in the examination may be appealed pursuant to Section 11-9 of the Norwegian Universities and University Colleges Act.

#### **Section 8-3. Entry into force**

These regulations shall enter into force on [*the date of entry into force shall be the date on which the regulations are published*]. The regulations of 28 August 2012, no. 841 on the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD) at OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University shall be repealed from the same date.