



Doctoral Programme of Education and Society

Regulations concerning licentiate and doctoral degrees

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1 EDUCATION AND SOCIETY DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

Under the Education and Society Doctoral Programme of the University of Tampere, it is possible to complete the following degrees: Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD (Ed.)) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The latter is completed by persons with an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than education.

Students who have been granted the right to complete a doctoral degree may complete a Licentiate of Education degree as an intermediate degree.

The doctoral programme also provides students with the opportunity to complete a PhD in speech technique and vocology.

1.1 Goals of postgraduate education

Pursuant to the Government Decree on University Degrees (794/2004), the purpose of postgraduate education is for the student to become well-versed in his/her own field of research: its development, basic problems, research methods and social significance. In addition to this, he/she must obtain such knowledge of the field of research to enable him/her to independently and critically apply the methods of scientific research and create new scientific information.

The purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy (Education) and Doctor of Philosophy postgraduate degrees is to ensure that the student becomes well-versed in his/her own field of research and its social significance, and that he/she gains the knowledge and skills needed to apply scientific research methods as part of research groups or networks.

The student must achieve such knowledge of educational sciences that enables

- understanding of research findings in the field;
- the following of scientific developments;
- active engagement as an expert in changing environments.

The student must also demonstrate independent and critical thinking in the field of research in question, skill in relaying research data and the capacity to operate within global scientific communities.

In addition to this, the student must gain mastery of

- up-to-date methods of data acquisition and research ethics;
- the latest research in the pertinent field;
- national and international trends concerning the development of the field;
- teaching and supervision practices.

1.2 Applying for the right to study and the admission criteria

The Faculty of Education grants the right to complete a Doctor of Philosophy (Education) or a Doctor of Philosophy by application.

1.2.1 Preconditions for postgraduate studies

The requirements for entering postgraduate studies leading to a postgraduate degree are as follows:

- an applicable higher university degree, or
- education of a level equivalent to a higher university degree, or
- a degree equivalent to a higher university degree from a non-Finnish institute of higher education.

The requirement for granting the right to study for a Doctor of Philosophy (Education) degree is a master's degree in education.

A Doctor of Philosophy degree can be completed by persons with a degree in a field other than education. In such cases, the student is also required to complete 20 ECTs of advanced studies in education, which can also be completed as part of the degree.

1.2.2 Application periods and admission numbers

New postgraduate students are admitted to the Faculty of Education twice a year. The application periods are April and October. The application periods are specified on the application page no later than two weeks before the beginning of each period (<http://www.uta.fi/edu/en/doctoralstudies/applying.html>).

Based on the spring and autumn application rounds, a maximum of 25 new postgraduate students will be admitted to the Faculty of Education in 2018: a maximum of 15 in the spring and a maximum of 15 in the autumn.

1.2.3 Admission criteria

The admission criteria are a) a feasible research plan and a) prior academic performance.

The research plan is evaluated particularly in terms of the significance of the research for the field of education and the set targets, the theoretical starting points, the coherence of the research problem and the selected methods of research and analysis. The admission process also considers the positioning of the applicant's research plans in the Faculty of Education's areas of focus and the Faculty's available supervisory resources.

A) Research plan

The research plan, which should be appended to the documents, must be written in Finnish or English and be no more than 2,500 words including references. It must adhere to the following structure:

Cover sheet

The cover sheet should state:

- the details of the party conducting the research;
- the type of postgraduate degree to be completed;
- the preliminary title of the study;
- the name of the professor, associate professor or docent with whom the research and postgraduate studies have been discussed.

Starting points for the research

The plan should outline:

- the significance of the research project in relation to current knowledge – i.e. how the project relates to prior national and international research;
- the positioning of the research in the field of education;
- the positioning of the field in the key areas of the research conducted by the Faculty of Education.

Goals, implementation and schedule of the research

Your research plan should include the following:

- your research goals
- your research questions
- your research methods and collection of material
- your research material and methods of analysis
- the research schedule
- the social and scientific significance of the research findings/conclusions.

Publication plan and funding plan

Bibliography

B) Prior academic performance

As a general rule, the grade received for the master's thesis or licentiate thesis must be at least "cum laude approbatur", at least 3 on a scale of 1–5, or an equivalent average grade if some other scale has been applied. If the thesis has not been graded or the grade is lower than required, the research plan appended to the application documents must have special merit.

1.2.4 Application

Before applying for the right to study, persons planning postgraduate studies must contact a professor, associate professor or docent who supervises postgraduate studies and whose area of expertise the applicant considers to cover the research subject. The applicant must then present the preliminary research plan to this person and discuss the completion of the postgraduate studies encompassed by the degree and the scheduling of the research.

The applications are submitted using the University's electronic system. The instructions pertaining to the application process and a link to the application form can be found on the University's website: <http://www.uta.fi/admissions/programme?id=320>.

Application documents

An application document for the right to study leading to a PhD or PhD (Education) degree must include the following application documents:

- 1) the electronically submitted application form
- 2) verified copies of the degree certificates
- 3) a research plan.

Other study or work certificates do not need to be appended to the application.

Approval process and publication of findings

The supervisors process the applications and research plans submitted to them once the application period is complete. They then prepare a preliminary proposal on the applicants to be approved and their proposed supervisors for the postgraduate education committee. The committee then draws up a proposal of the prospective students for the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean provides the final approval for the new students.

The rule of one study place at one institute of higher education also applies to applications for studies leading to a licentiate degree or doctorate. For additional information, see <http://www.uta.fi/edu/en/doctoralstudies/applying.html>.

The final publication date of the results is indicated on the Faculty's website at <http://www.uta.fi/edu/en/doctoralstudies/applying.html>.

The applicants are notified of the results via a message to the e-mail address listed in the application. Admitted applicants are also notified by mail. Applicants who are dissatisfied with the admission results may request rectification in writing from the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education in accordance with the instructions provided on the application page: <http://www.uta.fi/edu/en/doctoralstudies/applying.html>.

1.3 Registering as a postgraduate student

Once an applicant has been granted the right to postgraduate studies, he/she must inform the University's Applicant Services of his/her acceptance of the study place and register as a university student in the manner specified in the approval letter.

Only those who register as present may complete studies at the University. The student must register as present or absent annually in accordance with the general registration practices of the University of Tampere. Students who fail to do so will lose their right to study.

In the event that a student is expunged from the University's student register due to failing to complete the annual registration, the student in question must reapply in writing for the right to study at the Faculty of Education.

Membership of the Student Union is voluntary for postgraduate students.

2 DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION), DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND LICENTIATE OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

2.1 Degree structure

The total scope of a **doctoral degree (PhD (Ed.), PhD)** completed at the **Faculty of Education** is 240 ECTS, of which the dissertation and other studies account for 180 ECTS and 60 ECTS, respectively.

Both doctoral degrees consist of the following **studies**:

- I. Studies in education, theory of science and methodology (40 ECTS)
- II. Studies supporting the development of scientific expertise (20 ECTS)
- III. Active participation in research seminars, writing a dissertation and defending it in a public examination (180 ECTS)

Those approved for a doctoral degree may complete a **licentiate degree** as an intermediate degree. The scope of the degree is 120 ECTS, of which the licentiate thesis and other studies account for 80 ECTS and 40 ECTS, respectively. The licentiate studies are part of the studies encompassed by the Doctor of Philosophy (Education) degree. (For the vocational licentiate thesis, see page 10.)

2.2 Supervisors

Each approved postgraduate student will be appointed at least two supervisors, one of whom must be a professor, associate professor or docent employed by the University of Tampere. The second supervisor must have completed at least a doctoral degree. The other supervisor for the doctoral thesis can also be a professor emerita or emeritus with a position at the University of Tampere.

The Dean of the Faculty appoints the supervisors for the research.

In issues regarding the supervisory relationship, the supervisor or supervised student should contact the Study Coordinator who, after discussing the matter with the professor responsible for the doctoral programme or the Dean, prepares a Dean's decision on the replacement of the supervisor. Changes

of supervisor are recorded in the Study Register. If necessary, the postgraduate education committee can take the matter in hand.

2.3 Personal study and supervision plan (HOPS)

During the first semester, students admitted to the Education and Society doctoral programme will prepare a personal study and supervision plan (HOPS) together with the research supervisor(s). [Additional information.](#)

As part of the personal study plan, the student and responsible supervisor prepare a schedule for the degree. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to update the study and supervision plan together with the student annually at the end of the spring semester. The professor responsible for the doctoral programme verifies the supervision and study plan.

2.4 Voiding the supervisory relationship

In the event that a student fails to participate in the arranged supervision and further his/her studies during the academic year, his/her supervisory relationship will be rendered void. If the student wishes to return to active status, he/she must present the supervisor with an up-to-date personal study plan (HOPS) and a ten-page literature review covering the subject of the dissertation. The literature must be international and recent (no more than three years old). If a supervisor is unavailable, the student must contact the Research Coordinator.

3 LICENTIATE DEGREE

The scope of the licentiate degree is 120 ECTS, of which the licentiate thesis and other studies account for 80 ECTS and 40 ECTS, respectively. Licentiate studies are part of the studies encompassed by the doctoral degree.

3.1 Licentiate thesis (80 ECTS)

The licentiate thesis is an independent study in the field of education that indicates the author's mastery of the theoretical basics of the discipline as well as his/her in-depth knowledge of the research area and its methodological principles. The thesis must demonstrate that the student can utilise the aforementioned knowledge and skills in the development of his/her own work.

An acceptable licentiate degree may also consist of 2–3 scientific publications or article manuscripts approved for publication that address the same collection of issues, appended with a relevant summary (an article-based thesis). The publications may also include joint publications if the portion of work prepared independently by the author can be demonstrated.

Upon submission for examination, the author must state where the articles have been published or approved for publication. As regards co-authored publications, a written account of the role and responsibilities of the author of the licentiate thesis must be presented in the same context.

3.1.1 Vocational licentiate degree

Admission for a vocationally oriented licentiate degree in education has been discontinued. However, those to which the Faculty has previously granted the right to study may complete their degrees. As regards supervision and studies pertaining to the licentiate thesis, students are requested to contact the professor responsible for the Faculty's doctoral programme for the purpose of reviewing the study plan and completing the thesis.

The minimum scope of the vocational licentiate degree is 120 ECTS, of which the licentiate thesis accounts for 40 ECTS. The thesis is examined in accordance with the same process as the licentiate thesis in education.

3.2 The examination and evaluation of a licentiate thesis

3.2.1 Submitting a licentiate thesis for examination

The licentiate thesis is submitted for examination to the Study Coordinator of the Faculty of Education as one complete file in PDF format.

For the purposes of publication, each thesis must include a separate summary of 1–2 pages in length that describes the research problem, material, research methods used and the most important findings.

Before submission for examination, the originality of the thesis must be officially verified through the Turnitin system. The supervisor approves the originality check. In conjunction with the

submission of the manuscript, the supervisor provides a signed report on the Turnitin verification to the study administration.

3.2.2 Examiners

The Faculty of Education requests a proposal for examiners from the supervisor of the thesis. The Dean of the Faculty of Education appoints at least two examiners for a licentiate thesis. At least one examiner must come from outside the Faculty, and the supervisor of the licentiate thesis cannot serve as an examiner. The author of the thesis will be provided with an opportunity to respond before the selection of the examiners. In terms of the disqualification of examiners, the provisions set forth in Section 28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) apply.

The examiners prepare a justified written statement on the licentiate thesis, including a proposal on its evaluation.

A licentiate thesis can also be examined in a separately arranged examination.

3.3 Publishing and archiving a licentiate thesis

Once the author of the licentiate thesis has received examiner statements that are favourable and necessitate no corrections, he/she must send the thesis for publication and printing. More detailed publication instructions can be found on the University Library's [website](#).

If the examiners of the licentiate thesis propose its approval but require certain corrections before evaluation, the author must discuss the corrections with his/her supervisor. Before the evaluation of the thesis by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education, the thesis supervisor must provide the Faculty with a statement regarding the corrections made to the thesis.

The thesis will be published once its approval has been recorded in the student information system and the entry has been conveyed from the system to the Library. The grade is not published online. The thesis, printed and bound by Tampere University Press, is permanently added to the Library collection. The evaluation of the thesis is not appended to the copies of the thesis that are added to the library collection and archived.

3.4 Evaluation of a licentiate thesis

The evaluation of an electronically published licentiate thesis will not be placed on the agenda of the Faculty of Education's Faculty Council until the Faculty has received a copy of the thesis delivered by the printing house.

Before the evaluation of the licentiate thesis, the author must be afforded the opportunity to provide a response. The licentiate study is evaluated by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education in accordance with the scale "Approved with distinction", "Approved", or "Rejected".

The affected party may submit a request for rectification to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education within 14 days of being informed of the decision (Sections 44, 82 and 83 of the Universities Act (558/2009), Section 13, Paragraph 6 of the University of Tampere Regulations and Section 26 of the University of Tampere Regulations on Degrees).

3.5 Degree certificate

A student may apply for a degree certificate once all studies encompassed by the degree have been completed and entered into the Study Register and a module grade has been issued. [Additional information and certificate application form.](#)

4 DOCTORAL DEGREE

The total scope of a **doctoral degree (PhD (Ed.), PhD)** completed at the **Faculty of Education** is 240 ECTS, of which the dissertation and other studies account for 180 ECTS and 60 ECTS, respectively.

4.1 Doctoral dissertation (180 ECTS)

A doctoral dissertation is a study based on independent research that includes new scientific information. It is examined at a public defence.

The following can be approved as a dissertation: a uniform study (monograph) or a research compilation formed of scientific publications or article manuscripts approved for publication that cover the same issues and a summary prepared based on them.

The dissertation can be written in Finnish, Swedish, English, or another language approved by the Faculty of Education.

4.1.1 Article-based dissertation

An article-based doctoral dissertation consists of an introduction, 3–5 published articles or manuscripts approved for publication dealing with the same topic of inquiry and a summarising report. The introductory chapter should outline the objectives and the theoretical and methodological bases of the study, drawing the articles together to demonstrate their coherence. The summarising report on the articles should present the findings and conclusions of the research and evaluate its social significance and contribution to the field in question.

The published articles or approved manuscripts should be provided as appendices after the summary report. Alternatively, the articles can be placed between the introduction and summary. At least three of the articles included in the dissertation must have been published or approved for publication in peer-reviewed journals or books. All of the published or approved articles must meet the requirements of scientific texts, and each article must contain new findings or perspectives in a separate examination. However, slight redundancies may be allowed in articles covering subjects that are closely related. The collection may include co-authored publications, but the doctoral candidate must be the first author of at least three of the articles.

The author must submit the articles for pre-examination without edits or rewrites. Upon submission for pre-examination, the author must present a list of where the articles have been published or approved for publication. As regards co-authored publications, a written account of the role and responsibilities of the doctoral candidate must be presented in the same context. Before permission to print can be granted, the researcher must indicate that he/she has the necessary permission from all relevant parties to use the articles as part of the article-based dissertation's summary report.

In evaluating a report intended to serve as an article-based dissertation, the pre-examiners present their assessment of the scientific level of the entire dissertation (articles and summary). The statement addresses whether or not the elements of the study form a sufficiently consistent and extensive work to meet the specifications of a doctoral dissertation.

4.2 Pre-examination process of a doctoral dissertation

The dissertation manuscript must be submitted to the Study Coordinator of the Faculty of Education as one complete file in PDF format (see also [Practical instructions for doctoral candidates](#)).

In conjunction with the submission of the manuscript, the supervisor provides a signed report on the Turnitin verification to the study administration.

4.2.1 Pre-examiners

After discussion with the research supervisor, the Faculty Council or, pursuant to the delegation decision of the Faculty, the Dean of the Faculty appoints the pre-examiners for research intended to serve as a dissertation. At least two pre-examiners must be appointed for the dissertation. Both pre-examiners must be independent of the Faculty and, furthermore, one must be independent of the University of Tampere. At least one of the examiners must have a doctor's degree or equivalent academic merits, and the other must have a doctoral degree. A supervisor of the dissertation may not serve as a pre-examiner for the work. As regards the disqualification of pre-examiners, the provisions set forth in Sections 27 and 28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) apply. The author of the dissertation must be afforded the opportunity to provide a response before the selection of the pre-examiners.

4.2.2 Pre-examination

The purpose of the pre-examination is to ensure, before permission to publish is granted, that the manuscript meets the scientific and formal requirements for dissertations. The pre-examiners are requested to provide a justified written statement on whether or not the academic merits of the manuscript warrant permission to publish it as a doctoral dissertation. The pre-examiners may also write a joint statement.

The statement of the pre-examiners must be a justified, written statement that addresses the following aspects:

- General nature of the research
 - scientific discourse to which the research is related
- Research subject and question
 - scientific importance, informational value, originality and currency
- Familiarity with the field of research
 - scope of the literature review and the consistency and sufficiency of the content; currency and comprehensiveness of the literature references; critical grasp of the pertinent literature

- previous studies on the same subject; ability to identify the merits and shortcomings of previous publications
- author's share of the planning and implementation of the research
- Theoretical mastery of the subject and conceptual clarity
- Methods
 - reliability of the methods; assessment of reliability
 - methodological perspective and suitability; originality and difficulty
- Source material
 - quality and scope of the source material and its suitability for resolving the research problem
 - material collection process and the author's role in the further processing of the material
- Ethicality of the research
- Findings and conclusions
 - assessment of the reliability, novelty value and scientific significance of the findings
- Maturity demonstrated in the reasoning and conclusions portion
 - pertinence, criticality and clarity of the reasoning portion
- Structure, presentation and form of the study
 - consistency, style and language

As a final statement, the pre-examiner must recommend the publication of the study as a doctoral dissertation or indicate that he/she will not provide such a recommendation (the grounds are presented in the statement).

As a general rule, the pre-examiners provide their statements within three months. In the statement, the pre-examiners can propose permission to publish be granted or denied; conditional decisions are not permitted. A manuscript that has undergone pre-examination may only be changed in ways that have been proposed by the pre-examiners or agreed upon with them. However, this does not apply to the correction of typos or similar discrepancies.

The pre-examiners' statements on the dissertation manuscript must be provided to the author for information purposes, and he/she must be afforded an opportunity to submit a response to these statements (Section 44 of the Universities Act (558/2009)).

4.3 Permission to publish

A proposal to grant permission for the publishing of a scholarly work intended as a doctoral dissertation is brought to the Faculty Council for a decision if both pre-examiners recommend permission be granted. If the pre-examination statement is unfavourable, the pre-examination process can be halted at the request of the doctoral student. In the event that the pre-examination process is discontinued, it can be recommenced if permission is granted by the supervisors of the dissertation.

Before the Faculty Council processes the permission to publish, the manuscript must be delivered electronically as a single file (in PDF format) to the Faculty's Study Coordinator no later than ten (10) days before the Faculty Council meeting at which the matter of the permission is to be addressed. The manuscript must be supplied electronically to the members of the Faculty Council.

4.3.1 Publishing a dissertation

Once the Faculty Council has granted permission to publish, the dissertation is ready for printing.

Publishing instructions for dissertations are provided on the [website](#) of the Tampere University Library. The doctoral candidate must also secure [permission to publish](#) the dissertation from all relevant parties. If several publications are presented as a dissertation and a summary has been prepared (an article-based dissertation), the previously printed publications do not require reprinting. In this case, only permission to publish the summary need be obtained.

In the event that the dissertation consists of separate publications, the doctoral candidate must provide the Faculty of Education with ten copies of the dissertation or summary. If the dissertation is published under a series other than Acta Universitatis or is printed by a printing house other than Tampere University Press, the Faculty must be provided with 12 copies of the dissertation. The Faculty of Education will handle the official distribution of the dissertation in book form to the opponent and custos, among other relevant parties, and provide the members of the Faculty Council with electronic versions.

The dissertation must be made available to the public at least ten days before the public defence, which means that the dissertations must be delivered to the Faculty no later than 12 days before the defence. The separate title sheet to be appended to the dissertation must list the time and place of the defence, and it should indicate that the dissertation is presented for public examination with the consent of the Faculty of Education.

4.4 Appointing an opponent, a custos and an evaluation group

The Faculty Council or, pursuant to the Faculty Council's delegation decision, the Dean of the Faculty appoints a monitor (custos) for the public defence and, by proposal of the professor responsible for study or the relevant supervisor, one or two opponents who are independent of the University of

Tampere and are qualified to a minimum level of docent. A pre-examiner can only serve as an opponent on special grounds. A supervisor of the dissertation may not serve as an opponent.

The custos is usually the supervisor of the dissertation. This task can be assigned to a professor of the University of Tampere or, pursuant to the Faculty's regulations, to a docent or professor emerita or emeritus.

The evaluation group includes the opponent(s) and an expert representative appointed by the Faculty Council or, in accordance with the Faculty Council's delegation decision, the Dean of the Faculty. A professor, associate professor or docent is generally selected as a member of the evaluation group, but the Dean may, at his/her discretion, also appoint a doctor well-versed in the field of the dissertation. The group also includes the custos if he/she is not the supervisor of the dissertation. The group may hear the supervisor, but the supervisor may not participate in the decision of the grade proposal or the pertinent discussion. The members of the evaluation group must be present at the public defence.

The author of the dissertation must be afforded the opportunity to provide a response before the selection of the opponent(s). As regards the disqualification of the opponent, the provisions set forth in Sections 27 and 28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) apply.

The Dean of the Faculty determines the date and time of the public defence.

4.5 Evaluation of a doctoral dissertation

After the public defence, the dissertation's evaluation process proceeds as follows:

The evaluation group prepares a proposal on the approval and grading of the dissertation for the Faculty Council, based on the pre-examination statements, the opponent statements and a hearing with the custos. In addition to this, the opponent(s) prepares a written examination statement on the dissertation. After the defence and before the evaluation, the custos presents his/her assessment of the progression of the public defence to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education. Before the evaluation of the dissertation, the doctoral candidate must be afforded the opportunity to submit a response to the proposed grade and the opponent's statement.

The Faculty Council evaluates the dissertation on a scale of "excellent", "very good", "satisfactory", "sufficient" or "failed" (see the more specific criteria in Appendix 1).

The affected party may submit a request for rectification on the evaluation of the dissertation to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education within 14 days of being informed of the decision (Sections 44, 82 and 83 of the Universities Act (558/2009), Section 13, Paragraph 6 of the University of Tampere Regulations and Section 26 of the University of Tampere Regulations on Degrees).

4.6 Degree certificate

A student may apply for a degree certificate once all studies encompassed by the degree have been completed and entered into the Study Register and a module grade has been issued. [Additional information and certificate application form](#).

Appendix 1: Grades and evaluation criteria for dissertations

5 (excellent)

The research topic is clearly more demanding, significant and ambitious than in an average dissertation. The dissertation demonstrates a critical, truly creative and original approach, and shows that the author can theoretically analyse an extensive set of complex issues and research problems. The author has in-depth knowledge of the research traditions, key concepts and theories in his/her field, and he/she makes use of them creatively and exceptionally well. The research problems are expertly reasoned and closely connected to the theoretical framework, and the research design demonstrates innovation and creativeness. The research is exceptionally well conducted and produces significant new information. The analysis demonstrates a very good command of methods and is systematic, accurate and reliable. The discussion of ethical issues is critical, in-depth and diverse. The author reports his/her findings clearly and logically, and in a manner that is excellent in both style and language.

In the light of key evaluation criteria, the dissertation is especially distinguished, even at an international level. The doctoral candidate also presents and defends his/her research exceedingly well.

4 (very good)

The author is well-acquainted with the theoretical premises of his/her field and has not only successfully placed his/her research in the context of the research tradition in the field; his/her research also represents a significant contribution to the theory or empiricism of the field. The dissertation demonstrates that the author has an excellent command of the key theories and concepts in the field and he/she makes good use of them. The research problems are challenging and well-justified, and the author successfully connects them to his/her theoretical framework. The author explicitly derives his/her research questions from the research problems, and formulates and defines them well. The research design is also very clear and logical; the choice of research methods is well-justified, and the use of methods is competent. The analysis demonstrates a very good command of the methodology. The findings are interpreted logically and the conclusions are well-justified. The author considers the ethical issues involved in the research from a critical point of view and from different perspectives. The research accurately answers the research questions presented, and the interpretation of results is in good balance with the theoretical framework. The author reports on his/her research very clearly and logically, and the style and language of the report are commendable.

In relation to the evaluation criteria, the dissertation has several significant merits without invalidating deficiencies. The author also presents and defends his/her research very well.

3 (good)

The author is familiar with the theoretical premises of his/her field and has successfully placed his/her research in that context. The dissertation demonstrates that the author has a good command of the key theories and concepts in the field and that he/she makes appropriate use of them. The research problems are fairly challenging and well-justified, and they are relevant to the theoretical framework. The research assignment is defined so that it has a clear purpose. The research questions are derived from the research problems, and they are clearly formulated and well-defined. The choice of methods is justified and allows the author to answer his/her research questions. The use of methods is consistent and meticulous. The analysis is accurate and reliable and demonstrates a good command of the methodology. The presentation and discussion of the findings is competent. The research answers the research questions well, and the author does well in placing the interpretation of his/her findings in the theoretical framework. The research offers new information or a new insight. The author includes critical remarks when discussing research ethics and reports the research clearly and logically; the reporting is impeccable in style and language.

The research meets the criteria set for a good-quality dissertation in education. The doctoral candidate presents and defends his/her research well.

2 (satisfactory)

The author knows the key theoretical premises in his/her field and can place his/her research in the overall context of the research tradition in the field. The author demonstrates that he/she has familiarised himself/herself with the key theories and concepts in the field, but he/she has a fairly limited command of them and applies them to a limited extent only. The research offers some new information or a fresh point of view. The research design is fairly clear and logical. The research problems are challenging enough and the author justifies them; the research questions are derived from the research problems, but they could have been better defined. The author applies methods mechanically but appropriately and mainly faultlessly. The analysis is reliable but could be more specific. The author pays attention to the ethical issues concerning his/her research, but the connection between this discussion and the research itself is unsound. The author presents his/her findings logically and discusses their meaning also in relation to his/her theoretical framework. The research answers the research questions, and the results have been placed within the theoretical framework. His/her reporting on the research is clear, but there may be minor shortcomings in the structure, style or language.

The special merits of the dissertation may compensate for the possible deficiencies. The doctoral candidate presents and defends his/her research satisfactorily.

1 (sufficient)

The research demonstrates that the author has familiarised himself/herself with the research tradition in the field, but he/she places his/her research in this context insufficiently. The author uses the key theories and concepts of his/her specialism, but may have defined them insufficiently or applied them inconsistently. The research offers only limited new information. The research problems are not especially challenging or they are only loosely connected to the theoretical framework. The research design lacks clarity or consistency. The research questions are derived from the research problems, but the author formulates or defines them inadequately. There are shortcomings in his/her use of the methods. The analysis is reliable, but at times it is mechanical or inaccurate. The author acknowledges ethical considerations only on a general level. The author presents his/her findings logically, but discusses the meaning of the findings insufficiently. The research answers the research questions, but

the author could have placed the findings in his/her theoretical framework better. His/her reporting technique has shortcomings in structure, language and/or style.

The dissertation has several deficiencies without adequate compensative merits. The doctoral candidate presents and defends his/her research in an acceptable manner.

0 (failed)

The dissertation has a considerable number of marked deficiencies. The author's understanding of his/her research topic is superficial, and he/she discusses the topic in a way that is only loosely connected to the field. The theoretical framework of the research is too limited, too rambling and/or too extensive. The author fails to explain how his/her research is connected to previous research and theory. In addition, the author does not justify his/her choice of methods and applies them inconsistently. The analysis is not entirely reliable. The author presents his/her findings in a list-like or mechanical manner, and their connection to the theoretical framework is weak. The author does not discuss his/her findings on a general level, and he/she either fails to discuss ethical issues altogether or discusses them in a manner that is very brief and declaratory. The language of the dissertation is poor or unfinished.

The research does not meet the minimum criteria set for a dissertation in education.