

GUIDELINES FOR THE DOCTORAL PROPOSAL FOR AN INTEGRATED PHD, AS ARTISTIC RESEARCH, IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. Title of dissertation

The title of the dissertation must be concise but informative.

2. Introduction and rationale

In this section, a background to the proposed study is given, i.e., an explanation of why the study is being undertaken. Reference is usually made to existing knowledge that has already been generated in relation to the field of investigation and the deficiencies in respect of existing research are pointed out.

3. Problem statement and research question(s)

Doctoral study preferably concerns research undertaken with the intention of solving an existing and clearly formulated problem. The precise nature of the problem should be clearly formulated, taking into account, in particular, the meaning of the central concepts posed in its problem statement. The problem statement should be stated in not more than a single paragraph and should formulate the focal point of the dissertation concisely, intelligibly and clearly. Significantly, the problem statement makes clear what the original contribution of the study will be.

4. Theoretical points of departure

The theoretical framework(s) within which the research will be undertaken are stated and justified.

5. Research design and methods

Candidates must clearly state what approach(es) and methods they intend using to address and attempt to solve the proposed problem. Candidates employing practice-based methodologies should justify their intended use of this method. They should indicate their familiarity with possible controversies or limitations that exist in their field of research regarding the methods in question and/or potential problems and how they are planning to approach these.

If the study is of an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary nature, this must be clearly stated. Candidates should then give an account of the questions that methodologically problematise such an undertaking and indicate how such challenges can be overcome.

6. Integration of creative work into study and timeframe

Candidates must give a brief explanation of the different components or phases of the project, and how these are linked. More specifically, the candidate must indicate:

- how the envisaged creative component belongs within the research problem, relates to the research question(s) and focus of the doctoral project;
- the envisaged content and form of creative component(s); and
- statement of contribution where the creative component (or parts thereof) is a collaboration.

Candidates must also indicate the deadlines for the completion of each of the identified components or phases of the research. These deadlines should clearly indicate when the research is likely to be completed. Supervisors and candidates should, as far as possible, use the time schedule to monitor progress.

7. Budget

The aim of this section is to ensure that the candidate takes into account the potential financial implications of the study, and the possible impact thereof on the feasibility of the project. It is thus necessary that the candidate indicate whether extraordinary research expenses are expected, and how they intend to cover such costs. The candidate is personally responsible for the financing of their study.

8. Ethical considerations

This section details the ethical challenges associated with the research design and methods selected for the study. Ethical clearance must be approved prior to the commencement of data collection or as soon as possible after the research proposal has been approved via the online ethical clearance application system. Ethical clearance cannot be approved retrospectively, i.e., after the research has been conducted. Where ethical clearance is required, a description of the ethical clearance process in the research proposal will not suffice. Candidates should clearly indicate the level of risk of the proposed study and discuss any ethical considerations and how they might mitigate these.

Where ethical clearance is not required, candidates should state so in a single sentence with reference to the research design and methods selected for the study. The provisional ethics exemption form (once the research proposal has been approved by Senate) and ethics exemption declaration (once the dissertation is ready for examination) are to be completed for those studies that are exempt from ethical clearance.

Submissions should be between 2,500 and 4,000 words,
excluding bibliography and addenda