

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR (PHD)

AT THE NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES

with supplementary provisions

*Adopted by the Board of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) on 5 March 2009
pursuant to the provisions of Act no. 15 of 1 April 2005 relating to Universities and University
Colleges, Section 3-3 and Section 3-7. Last revised 6 October 2011.*

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Chapter 1 Scope

Section 1-1 The regulations apply to the doctoral programme leading to the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB). The regulations concern the objectives, division of responsibilities, admission, accomplishment and completion of the PhD degree.

Section 1-2 Reference is also made to ‘Guidelines for the Evaluation of PhD Degrees at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences’ adopted by the University Board on 5 March 2009. In case of any inconsistencies between the guidelines and the regulations, the regulations shall always take precedence. In case of any inconsistencies between the Norwegian and the English versions of the regulations or guidelines, the Norwegian version shall take precedence over the English version.

Chapter 2 Objectives

Section 2-1 The PhD programme at UMB aims to educate independent researchers with qualifications at a high international level, in cooperation with Norwegian and international research communities and in accordance with recognised scientific and ethical principles. The programme shall qualify the candidate for research activity and other work that demands considerable scientific insight and analytical thinking.

Chapter 3 Responsibility for the PhD programme

Section 3-1 The University Board has overall responsibility for the PhD programme at UMB, and The Board itself prescribes regulations for the programme’s organisation.

Section 3-2 In cases where a department is the decision-maker the department’s board itself shall determine the division of responsibilities between different departmental bodies.

Section 3-3 The Education Committee (SN) and the Research Committee (FON) collaborate on, and are jointly responsible for, the PhD programme at UMB.

- SN and FON can adopt supplementary provisions within the framework of these regulations. In the event of disagreement between SN and FON, the matter shall be settled by the University Board.
- SN has overall responsibility for ensuring that the quality assurance system for the academic training component of the PhD programme, is complied with and further developed.
- FON has overall responsibility for ensuring that the quality assurance system for the research component of the PhD programme is complied with and further developed.

Chapter 4 Contents of the PhD programme

Section 4-1 The PhD programme includes:

- an independent research effort in cooperation with a team of supervisors and, where relevant, other researchers
- an approved academic training component
- participation in active national and international research groups
- research dissemination that is closely related to the doctoral work
- compilation of a doctoral thesis based upon the research work

Chapter 5 Admission

Section 5-1 To be admitted as a PhD candidate, the applicant must hold a Master's degree or have an equivalent education approved by UMB as the basis for admission. Documented proficiency in English is required.

The applicant must have strong academic credentials from previous studies. Grades from higher degree examinations (120 credits) should normally be among the upper half of the student population.

Section 5-2 Admission is processed continuously throughout the year. The individual department is the formal admission authority.

The application for admission shall be sent to UMB on the standardised form, and admission shall be granted before start-up (see Ad 5-2).

Section 5-3 The application for admission shall include:

- documentation of educational credentials qualifying for admission
- documentation of proficiency in English
- a brief description of the project (as an enclosure)
- an explanation of required facilities and infrastructure
- a request, if relevant, to use a language other than English or Norwegian in the thesis
- a proposal for a main supervisor
- an overview of funding sources

Section 5-4 A decision on admission shall be based on an overall assessment of the application. One prerequisite for admission is that the applicant's academic credentials satisfy the requirements in section 5-1. If possible, supervisors shall be appointed, and the date of start-up and duration of the contract shall be decided in conjunction with the decision on admission.

Admission may be granted conditional upon:

- funding, admission capacity, supplementary education and infrastructure requirements
- agreement being reached on intellectual property rights when the contract is signed (cf. section 6-1)

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 5

Addition to Section 5-1 Requirement for proficiency in English:

- a) *Foundation/ level 1 course in English at upper secondary school (5 weekly periods) with the mark 4 or better (alternatively, a pass in the English Advanced course I and/ or II)*
- b) *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a result of at least 550 points for the Paper-based test (PBT) or 80 points for the Internet-based test (IBT)*
- c) *International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with a score of at least 6.0*
- d) *Other approved documentation following an individual assessment*

Addition to Section 5-2 By 'start-up', is meant the commencement date (project research fellows, both internal and external, plus university research fellows), the date of start-up of doctoral work at UMB (quota scheme PhD students and non-employee research fellows with grants) or the date for start-up of the doctoral collaboration with a supervisor employed by UMB.

Chapter 6 Contract

Section 6-1 The PhD programme shall be formalised by means of a written contract no later than six months after admission. The contractual parties are the PhD candidate, the supervisory team, the department to which the candidate has been admitted and any external institutions involved.

The contract shall stipulate the parties' responsibilities, rights and obligations – with respect to issues such as funding, supervision, reporting, publishing and ownership of research results.

The contract shall ensure that the PhD candidate is included in an active research group and shall facilitate completion of the PhD programme within the agreed period.

The contract shall be accompanied by:

- a funding plan
- copyright agreements where relevant
- intellectual property rights agreements where relevant

Section 6-2 If significant changes occur in the agreed conditions during the PhD period, a new contract shall be drawn up.

Chapter 7 Time frame

Section 7-1 The PhD programme shall be organised in such a way that it can be completed within the prescribed duration of three years of full-time study.

Section 7-2 The contractual period may be extended due to work duties, leaves of absence, part-time study, long-term illness or other unforeseen circumstances. The PhD candidate may also be entitled to an extension of the contract period pursuant to other rights he/she has, for example, as an employee. Changes to the contract period shall be approved by the department.

Section 7-3 The maximum permitted study period for the PhD programme is eight years from admission until submission of the thesis for evaluation. Work duties, leaves of absence, approved part-time study, or long-term illness are not included in the eight-year period. The PhD candidate will forfeit the right to a public defence of his/her thesis if the maximum study period is exceeded.

Section 7-4 In the event of breach of contract, such as violation of ethical principles, lack of progression or significant changes to the research project, the University Board may decide that the PhD candidate must discontinue the PhD programme before completion and thereby terminate the contract.

Chapter 8 Academic training component, education plan

Section 8-1 UMB shall provide training at a high academic level for all PhD candidates.

If UMB, or the unit administering the programme, does not organise the entire academic training component, arrangements shall be made to ensure that the PhD candidate can participate in appropriate training at other institutions or units that provide accredited PhD training. In a subject where no suitable course is available, an independent study at 400 level may be approved as part of the academic training component.

Section 8-2 The academic training component shall include courses equivalent to 30-70 credits at the 300 level (master's) or the 400 (PhD) level. A course in research ethics shall be included. Examinations taken more than ten years previously can normally not be approved.

Section 8-3 An individual education plan shall be prepared, in cooperation with the supervisory team, within six months after admission.

The education plan shall include:

- a complete project description of the research assignment
- a progress plan for completion of the research component
- a progress plan for completion of the academic training, including course descriptions
- any plans for stays at other universities, research institutions or enterprises, in Norway or abroad
- a publication plan

The department shall approve the education plan. Should the need arise for significant changes to the education plan, a revised plan must also be approved.

Section 8-4 For the academic training component to be approved, no grade lower than C and an average of B is required for courses taken at UMB or at other educational institutions in Norway for which letter grades are awarded. Other courses shall not be included when calculating the grade average, but are approved if passed.

Section 8-5 The academic training component must be completed and approved by the department before the thesis is submitted.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 8

Addition to Section 8-2 Each department may stipulate specific requirements for the number of credits in the academic training component within the range of 30 to 70 credits. Such requirements must be set by the department's board itself.

Addition to Section 8-4 The provision in section 8-4 shall also apply to PhD candidates admitted to UMB during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 April 2009, and who, pursuant to the PhD regulations valid during this period, were required to achieve B or better for all courses included in the academic training component.

The grade requirement for students admitted to PhD studies at UMB before 1 January 2007 is the grade C or better for courses completed before 1 April 2009. By 'completed', is meant the date of the examination, the date of submission of a final assignment, or, if applicable, completion/submission of the final compulsory activity/piece of work pertaining to the course.

PhD candidates who have been awarded the grades C, D, E, F, or 'failed', for a course included in the academic training, can re-sit the examination, either during the period for re-examinations and new tests or during the next period for ordinary examinations.

Addition to Section 8-5 The department shall approve the academic training component on the basis of documentation (transcript of grades/certificates) submitted by the PhD candidate for courses included in the approved education plan. The PhD candidate shall also document how the grade requirement in section 8-4 is met.

Chapter 9 Supervision and affiliation to a research group

Section 9-1 The work on the PhD thesis shall be carried out under individual supervision. A supervisory team of at least two researchers shall be set up.

Section 9-2 Supervisors shall hold a doctoral degree or equivalent competence.

Section 9-3 A main supervisor, who must be employed by UMB, shall be appointed from among the supervisory team.

The main supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the PhD candidate maintains regular contact with his/her supervisors. The supervisory team shall be jointly responsible for the academic follow-up of the PhD candidate and shall make arrangements to ensure that he/she regularly participates in an active research group with senior researchers and other PhD candidates.

Section 9-4 The supervision shall be based upon the education plan. The PhD candidate and supervisors shall keep each other informed about all circumstances of importance to accomplish the PhD programme and the supervision. Quality requirements for the supervision are regulated in the current contract for the PhD programme period (cf. Chapter 6).

Section 9-5 The department responsible must immediately appoint a new supervisor or supervisors in the event of long-term illness, leave of absence etc.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 9

Addition to Section 9-4 *The number of hours of supervision to be distributed among the supervisory team is 100 hours per year during the effective study period, corresponding to a total of 300 hours for the whole programme period.*

Chapter 10 PhD thesis

Section 10-1 The thesis shall be an independent piece of scientific work of international standard and at a high academic level in terms of the formulation of research questions, conceptual precision, methodological, theoretical and empirical basis, documentation, the use of literature and form of presentation. The thesis shall contribute to developing new scholarly knowledge to the discipline and hold an academic standard which would justify publication as part of the literature in the field.

The thesis may consist of several pieces of work (articles or manuscripts). In this case, the thesis shall also contain a chapter which, from an overall perspective, summarises and collates the research problems and conclusions presented in the separate works, and which documents the coherence of the thesis. The PhD candidate must be the sole author of this part of the thesis.

The thesis shall contain two brief abstracts, one in Norwegian and one in English.

Section 10-2 If the PhD candidate is not the sole author of a thesis, signed authorship declarations shall accompany the submission, specifying the research contributions of both the PhD candidate and the co-author(s). The PhD candidate is responsible for obtaining such declarations.

Section 10-3 The PhD candidate is obliged to store research data in accordance with UMB's guidelines.

Section 10-4 "Guidelines for crediting institutions in scientific publications" (see <http://www.uhr.no>) shall be used to determine which institutional addresses are to be listed on scientific publications that form part of a doctoral work. Requirements for co-authorship shall be based on the Vancouver Convention (Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts (URM), see: <http://www.icmje.org/>).

Section 10-5 The thesis shall be written in either English or Norwegian. A PhD candidate who wishes to use another language must apply for permission to do so upon admission, cf. section 5-3.

Section 10-6 Work that has been approved as the basis for previous examinations may not be accepted for evaluation unless it forms a minor part of a thesis consisting of several related pieces of work.

Section 10-7 No restrictions may be placed on public disclosure or publication of results that are part of the PhD work, with the exception of a postponement of publication agreed in advance. Public disclosure/publication may be postponed if the PhD contract period is fully or partly funded by an external party in order to allow the external party to make decisions relating to patenting/commercialisation.

Any agreements to postpone the time of public disclosure/publication shall not exceed four months.

Section 10-8 The PhD candidate's right to use his/her own results, the utilisation of patentable inventions, copyright etc., are regulated by the Act respecting the Right to Employees' Inventions (Arbeidstakeroppfinningsloven) and by UMB's own regulations concerning employees' rights. This shall apply unless provisions in any copyright and/or intellectual property right agreements specify otherwise (cf. Section 6-1).

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 10

Addition to Section 10-4 UMB's official cover page template for doctoral theses shall be used. If the PhD candidate is employed by or takes part in collaboration with another institution for the degree, this institution's address may also be listed on the cover page.

As a main rule the PhD candidate shall list UMB and cooperating institutions, if any, as the author's address on all lectures, articles, publications, presentations, posters etc. which constitute a part of the doctoral work.

An institution shall be listed as an address on a publication when the institution has provided an essential and significant contribution to, or basis for, an author's (read: a PhD candidate's) contribution to the published work, as for instance an active supervisory role. If the institution's contribution is supervision, the contribution required to be listed as an institution on the publication is smaller than if the supervisor himself/herself were to be listed as a co-author of the said work.

Chapter 11 Quality assurance and reporting

Section 11-1 UMB shall have a quality assurance system for its PhD programme(s), including measures to detect lack of progression in the thesis work and deficiencies in supervision.

Section 11-2 Both the PhD candidate and the supervisors are obliged to report in accordance with current regulations. UMB's departments shall have procedures for following up any deficiencies that are discovered.

Section 11-3 The quality assurance of the PhD programme shall include three seminars during the PhD contract period, an initial, a midway and a final seminar, which shall be held in accordance with current guidelines.

Chapter 12 Basis for conferral of the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD)

Section 12 -1 The Philosophiae Doctor degree shall be conferred on the basis of:

- an approved academic training component
- an approved doctoral thesis
- an approved trial lecture on a specified topic
- an approved public defence of the thesis

Chapter 13 Appointment of an evaluation committee

Section 13-1 Acting on the authority of the University Board and on proposal from the department, the Rector shall appoint an evaluation committee with at least three expert members to evaluate the thesis.

Supervisors or co-authors cannot be members of the evaluation committee. The composition of the committee shall comply with the following requirements:

- both genders should be represented, if possible
- two of the members shall have no affiliation with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and at least one of the members should be affiliated with a recognised foreign institution.
- one of the members shall be employed by UMB in a permanent position and shall serve as the committee's administrator
- All the members shall hold a doctoral degree or equivalent judged competence

Section 13-2 Proposals for the composition of the evaluation committee may not be presented before the academic training has been completed in accordance with the education plan and approved by the department. Proposals shall be justified, showing how the committee as a whole can cover the field of study in the thesis. The PhD candidate shall be given the opportunity to submit written comments on the composition of the committee before the proposal is presented to the Rector.

Section 13-3 In the event of changes in the composition of the evaluation committee due to, for example, long-term illness or leave of absence, the Rector shall as soon as possible appoint a new member.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 13

Addition to Section 13-1 *The Department of Academic Affairs shall issue and forward the formal letters of appointment to the evaluation committee members and shall at the same time inform them of UMB's current regulations concerning the PhD degree.*

The committee's administrator shall be responsible for organising the committee's work and ensuring that the time frame is complied with, and shall otherwise participate in the committee's work on an equal par with the other members (unless he/she has been appointed solely as administrator). The administrator shall collate the committee's report, inform the other members of the structure of the public defence and clarify the division of tasks between the committee members during the defence.

In case of special circumstances UMB may appoint from among its own employees, an administrator of the committee who will not participate in the academic evaluation of the thesis, in addition to the three expert members.

Chapter 14 Submission of the thesis

Section 14-1 Once a PhD candidate is ready to have his/her thesis evaluated, five bound copies of the thesis shall be submitted to the department, together with signed, original declarations from any co-authors.

Section 14-2 Once submitted, a thesis cannot be withdrawn before it is determined whether or not it is worthy of public defence for the PhD degree. After submission, the PhD candidate is only entitled to make corrections of a formal character, in which case a list must be provided of all errata in the submitted thesis. The errata list shall be sent to the committee no later than one week prior to the public defence.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 14

Addition to Section 14-1 *The department shall send three of the five copies submitted to the evaluation committee members and two copies to the Department of Academic Affairs (one of which shall be forwarded to the Norwegian University Library of Life Sciences).*

Chapter 15 The committee's evaluation of the thesis

Section 15-1 When evaluating the thesis, particular consideration should be given to whether the thesis fulfils the requirements stated in Section 10-1. An overall assessment must be made with consideration of strong and weak points – including evaluations of whether the material and methods are relevant to the questions raised in the thesis, and whether the arguments and conclusions presented are tenable.

Section 15-2 The main supervisor may be summoned to evaluation committee meetings in order to inform the committee about the supervision of the PhD candidate and the work on the thesis.

Section 15-3 The committee may require the PhD candidate to present his or her basic material as well as supplementary or clarifying additional information.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 15

Addition to Section 15-3: *Should the evaluation committee, when evaluating the thesis, suspect cheating or plagiarism, the case shall be dealt with in accordance with UMB's 'Procedures for handling cases of cheating and attempted cheating on written examinations and tests'.*

Chapter 16 The evaluation committee's report on the thesis

Section 16-1 The committee shall submit a joint reasoned report to the department to which the PhD candidate was admitted (based on the criteria in section 10-1 and section 15-1), stating whether the thesis is worthy of a public defence for a PhD degree. The committee's report shall be submitted within three months after thesis submission and no later than 25 working days prior to the planned public defence.

The report's conclusion must clearly state whether the committee:

- approves the thesis for public defence (cf. section 16-4)
- does not approve the thesis for public defence, but will allow a revision (cf. section 16-5)
- does not approve (i.e. rejects) the thesis (cf. section 16-6).

Any dissent among the committee's members must be declared in the report, and the reasons stated, cf. section 16-3.

Section 16-2 The evaluation committee's report (cf. Section 15-1) shall be forwarded to the PhD candidate, who shall be given 10 working days to submit written comments. If the PhD candidate does not wish to submit any written comments, the committee shall be notified of this as soon as possible.

Section 16-3 In the case of dissent among the committee members, the case shall be presented to the University Board, which can:

- make a decision without further evaluation
- request further clarification from the evaluation committee
- appoint two new experts, to provide independent reports on the thesis
- decide that two new experts shall be included in the evaluation committee

The University Board shall make decisions concerning the case on the basis of the report, any comments submitted by the PhD candidate and any reports obtained from the two new experts.

Section 16-4 Should the evaluation committee unanimously approve the thesis, the trial lecture and the public defence of the thesis may be carried out.

Section 16-5 Should the committee find that the thesis contains minor deficiencies, and for the time being does not approve it for public defence, the committee may permit a revised version of the thesis to be resubmitted only once. The committee should comment on areas of the thesis to be improved (without giving the impression that a new evaluation will necessarily lead to

approval of the thesis). A revision of the thesis should be possible within the framework of a maximum of six months' work. The committee shall prescribe a deadline for submission in agreement with the candidate and the main supervisor.

Section 16-6 Should the committee find that fundamental changes to theory, hypothesis, material or methods are necessary before a thesis can be recommended for public defence, the committee shall not recommend resubmission of the same thesis in a revised version for new evaluation. In such cases (rejection), the committee may permit a new thesis to be submitted only once.

The new thesis may be submitted at the earliest six months after the evaluation committee's decision was reached.

Section 16-7 On submission of a revised thesis or a new thesis, the thesis shall be evaluated by the original evaluation committee unless there are special reasons for not doing so.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 16

Addition to Section 16-2 *An unanimous report from the evaluation committee has the status of a decision, and will not be considered by other bodies unless the PhD candidate requires this in his/her written comments.*

In the event of dissent among the committee's members, the report has the status of a recommendation, and the Department of Academic Affairs will present the case to the University Board for a decision (cf. Section 16-3).

Chapter 17 Publication of the thesis

Section 17-1 If the thesis is approved for public defence, the following shall be submitted as soon as possible:

- 12 additional copies of the thesis
- a brief popularised summary of the thesis (press release)
- an electronic version of the thesis (or at least the abstract) in PDF format for archive purposes

In addition, the thesis will be electronically registered in the 'Dissertations and Theses' database (ProQuest) by the Norwegian University Library of Life Sciences.

Section 17-2 The thesis shall be publicly available at the Norwegian University Library of Life Sciences no later than 10 working days prior to the public defence.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 17

Addition to Section 17-1 *The 12 copies and the electronic version shall be submitted to the Department of Academic Affairs. The press release shall be submitted to the Department of Communications.*

UMB reserves a non-exclusive right to store the thesis in UMB's open electronic publications archive. Unless storage in an electronic archive conflicts with the publishing rights of other parties, pertinent minor pieces of work may be included in the electronic version.

The PhD candidate and the Norwegian University Library of Life Sciences shall sign an agreement concerning registration and archiving of the thesis. The PhD candidate may reserve the right to postpone electronic registration and archiving by a maximum period of one year on account of possible subsequent publication.

Chapter 18 Trial lecture

Section 18-1 The PhD candidate shall give a trial lecture on a specified topic after the thesis has been submitted and approved. The topic of the trial lecture shall be prescribed by the evaluation committee and announced to the PhD candidate 10 working days prior to the lecture. The

prescribed topic should not be selected from the central research questions covered by the candidate's degree work.

Section 18-2 The trial lecture is part of the doctoral examination, and must be approved by the evaluation committee before the PhD candidate can defend his/her thesis in a public defence.

Section 18-3 The trial lecture shall be given in either English or Norwegian unless the evaluation committee has approved another language.

Section 18-4 Should the trial lecture not be approved, the PhD candidate may present a new trial lecture and public defence at the earliest after a period of six months.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 18

Addition to Section 18-1: *The trial lecture should hold a master's degree level in terms of depth, examples from primary publications, etc. The lecture shall last for 45 minutes.*

Chapter 19 Public defence of the thesis (disputation)

Section 19-1 The time and place for the public defence shall be announced at least 10 working days in advance, together with information on how the thesis has been publicised.

Section 19-2 The public defence shall be held in either English or Norwegian unless the evaluation committee has approved another language.

Section 19-3 There shall normally be two ordinary opponents. The ordinary opponents shall be members of the evaluation committee.

Section 19-4 The public defence shall be chaired by the Head of Department or a person appointed by the Head of Department for this purpose. The chairperson shall give a brief account of the submission, the evaluation of the thesis and the trial lecture. Thereafter, the PhD candidate presents the objectives and results of the scientific work. The first ordinary opponent commences the discussion, and the second concludes the public defence.

Members of the audience who wish to oppose (*ex auditorio*) must notify the chairperson during the defence and within the time limit set by the chairperson.

Section 19-5 The public defence shall be a scholarly discussion between the opponents and the PhD candidate on the formulation of research questions, methods, the empirical and theoretical basis, documentation and form of presentation. Particular emphasis should be placed on testing the tenability of important conclusions drawn by the PhD candidate in his/her thesis. The questions the opponents choose to pursue need not be limited to those discussed in the committee's report on the thesis. The opponents should strive as much as possible to form the discussion in such a way that members of the audience, who have not read the thesis or are not well acquainted with the academic field, are able to follow the discussion.

Section 19-6 Should the public defence not be approved, a new public defence may be held at the earliest after a period of six months. The new public defence shall, wherever possible, be evaluated by the original evaluation committee.

Chapter 20 Statement from the evaluation committee

Section 20-1 After the trial lecture and public defence, the evaluation committee shall issue an overall recommendation (statement) to the University Board. The statement shall include:

- the committee's evaluation of the thesis
- the committee's evaluation of the trial lecture

- the committee's evaluation of the public defence of the thesis
- the committee's evaluation of the level of the thesis in an international context

The evaluation committee's statement must clarify whether the different components that form the basis for conferral of the PhD degree are approved or not approved.

Chapter 21 Conferral of the degree, certificate and diploma

Section 21-1 Once the academic training, thesis, trial lecture and public defence of the thesis have been approved, the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) shall be conferred on the PhD candidate by the University Board.

Section 21-2 Certificates are issued on an ongoing basis. Certificates shall state the title of the thesis, the topic of the trial lecture, courses included in the approved academic training, the names of the supervisors and the members of the evaluation committee.

The doctor also receives a PhD diploma. The certificate and diploma shall be signed by the Rector and the Director of Academic Affairs.

Chapter 22 Appeals

Section 22-1 Rejection of application for admission pursuant to section 5-4 can be appealed subject to section 28 ff. of the Public Administration Act. A reasoned appeal should be sent to UMB. If the rejection is upheld, the appeal will be forwarded to UMB's Appeals Committee for decision.

Section 22-2 Section 28 ff. of the Public Administration Act applies to appeals against rejection of applications for approval of courses or other parts of the academic training. In the case of appeals against the grading of examinations or tests, however, the Act relating to universities and university colleges shall apply.

Section 22-3 Rejection of a thesis, a trial lecture or a public defence can be appealed subject to the provisions of the Public Administration Act section 28 ff. A reasoned appeal should be sent to UMB. UMB may consider all aspects of the appealed decision.

Supplementary provisions to Chapter 22

Addition to Chapter 22 Appeals shall be sent to the body at UMB which made the decision in the first instance. The body that receives the appeal shall consider it. If the decision is upheld, the appeal shall be forwarded to a higher appellate body.

Chapter 23 Final provisions

Section 23-1 These regulations enter into force on 1 April 2009.

From this date the 'Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae doctor (PhD) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences', adopted by the University Board 7 December 2006, is superceded.

Section 23-2 In special circumstances, the Rector may grant dispensation from these regulations. The Rector shall report any dispensations to the University Board.