AALTO UNIVERSITY GENERAL POLICY ON DOCTORAL STUDENT ADMISSION IN 2016

General eligibility criteria

The general eligibility criteria for doctoral studies are defined in the Section 37 of the Universities Act (Yliopistolaki 558/2009).

Subsection 5.
Eligible for studies leading to an academic or artistic postgraduate degree shall be a person who has completed
1) an applicable higher university degree;
2) an applicable higher polytechnic degree; or
3) an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.

Subsection 6.
The university may require a student admitted to study for an academic or artistic postgraduate degree to complete the necessary supplementary studies in order to gain the knowledge and skills needed for the studies.

Subsection 9.
Also students who the university deems to have acquired the skills and knowledge necessary for the studies by other means may be admitted to pursue the studies referred to above.

In addition, the law requires that consistent admission criteria be applied to all applicants.

Admission of doctoral candidates

Doctoral degrees

Aalto University admits students to pursue doctoral studies toward the degrees of Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration), Doctor of Arts (Arts and Design) and Doctor of Science (Technology/Architecture). In addition the university awards the degrees of Licentiate of Science (Economics and Business Administration) and Licentiate of Science (Technology/Architecture).

Admission of doctoral candidates and granting rights to study

Doctoral candidates can be selected to the research fields represented in the university, where it is possible to provide each doctoral candidate with sufficient supervision and support in the field of thesis research.

The admission of doctoral candidates is made on the basis of admission criteria announced in advance and determined on the basis of scientific considerations and the potential of the candidate for doctoral education.
The schools organise an admissions procedure to the doctoral programme of the school at least once a year. The schools grant those admitted to the programme a right to study towards the doctoral degree in the educational field represented by the School: Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration), Doctor of Arts (Arts and Design) and Doctor of Science (Technology/Architecture). The fields of business and science and technology allow the completion of a pre-doctoral licentiate degree.

**Admission criteria**

The schools prepare the doctoral admission criteria which define eligibility in accordance with the Universities Act, describe the admissions process and define the criteria used to evaluate the applicants.

The admission criteria of the school specify at least the following:

- **Policy on the recognition of degrees awarded outside Finland.** The admission criteria define the requisite level of degrees earned abroad. Students holding a master’s degree earned abroad are eligible for doctoral studies provided their master’s degree gives them eligibility for corresponding higher education in the awarding country. As a rule, degrees earned abroad are recognised at Aalto provided that they have required studies of at least four years including a thesis similar to the master’s thesis and such studies as in the view of the school equip the student with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue doctoral studies at the school. The precondition for the recognition of European degrees is that the degree is a university degree combination earned in accordance with the Bologna Process principles (3+2 years).

- **Policy on the recognition of master’s degrees from a Finnish polytechnic.** The admission criteria specify the qualifications required of a student with a master’s degree from a Finnish polytechnic wishing to continue towards a doctoral degree. Applicants with a prior degree earned abroad and corresponding to a Finnish polytechnic master’s degree in an applicable field are treated equally to those with a polytechnic master’s degree from a Finnish polytechnic.

- **Defining the requisite supplementary studies.** The admission criteria describe the principles according to which the doctoral students are assigned supplementary studies to ensure they have the prerequisite knowledge and skills for the doctoral studies.

- **Requisite language proficiency.** The language proficiency requirements defined in the general admission criteria for the Aalto University education leading to bachelor’s and master’s degrees are applied in doctoral student admission.

- **Criteria for the admission of doctoral students.** The school defines the evaluation criteria used in the admission of doctoral students including prior academic performance, the candidate’s potential for doctoral education in science/arts, the quality of the research proposal and the possibilities of the student to earn the degree within the normative duration of studies.

**Dissemination of information**

The application dates, application instructions and detailed admission criteria must be available on the university website.