For prospective students

The main purpose of doctoral education at the Aalto Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture is to teach the doctoral candidate to create new knowledge via scientific and artistic methods and theories. During the research and studies you will learn what it takes to be a professional academic researcher.

If you consider applying for doctoral studies, you should deliberate at least these questions:

- Doctoral degree is a basic requirement for a career in academia. What are your career plans and do they demand a doctoral degree?
- What are your motives to apply for doctoral studies? To clarify your thoughts, read this essay of Purdue University.
- To make a doctoral dissertation takes at least 3-4 years, if you study full-time. Are you persevering enough?
- What kind of knowledge, skills and advantageous contacts you already possess to help you with your future studies? What would you still need to acquire?
- Are you willing to continually challenge yourself and your knowledge in order to learn more?
- Are you ready to put a strong effort on learning various communication skills, write scientific papers and make conference proceedings?
- Do you want to learn and develop new scientific knowledge also in those fields that you first did not even think about?
- Use Research Gate and Google Scholar to find out which research groups do active research on the topics which match your interest. Do they have open position(s) for new doctoral candidates or do you have your own funding, such as national funding?

Warning: active scientific research work can cause positive addiction. It is a proven fact that professional researchers work longer hours and retire later than the professionals in many other fields.

Doctoral education is actually an apprentice in close collaboration with your thesis advisor(s) and supervising professor. Studying full-time, you will spend 3-4 years working intensively on research topic, and complete this with your intellectual piece of work, i.e., doctoral dissertation. Along the road, you will be involved with theory courses, seminars, group activities, teaching undergraduates, possibly building your artistic components and supportive tasks needed to make your department and research group able to operate.

Doctoral studies are not the only way to improve and maintain your knowledge:

- With the right to pursue non graduate studies you can improve your professional know-how and participate to the doctoral level courses at Aalto University.
- Doctoral level courses pursued after the Master’s degree can later be included to your doctoral studies.