Curriculum

- General instructions
- Degree Requirements
- Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture
- Curriculum 2020-2022
- Content of studies
  - General Research Studies, 15-25 ECTS
    - Learning objectives
    - Compulsory courses
    - Optional courses
  - Research Field Studies, 15-25 ECTS
    - Learning objectives
    - Compulsory: Doctoral seminar
    - Optional Research field specific courses
    - Courses with varying content

General instructions

- L-coded course such as ARTS-L0102 Doing Research are doctoral level courses.
- E-coded courses such as ELO-E6500 Costume and Research are offered primarily for master's level students, but the ones listed below are also suitable for doctoral students.
- For the exact teaching times, locations and course descriptions, please search for the course at sisu.aalto.fi (available without login)

Degree Requirements

ARTS Doctoral Programme Degree Requirements 2022-2024 (pdf)
ARTS Doctoral Programme Degree Requirements 2020-2022 (pdf)

Doctoral Programme in Arts, Design and Architecture

Doctoral education prepares the doctoral candidate for academic career as highly qualified researcher or, increasingly also for diversity of career pathways outside of academia in most demanding expert positions or to act as entrepreneur or creative practitioners.

The education is carried out in a multidisciplinary international scientific community through researchwork and various forms of education and learning. High quality field based education and transferableskills training together with network-building ensure the development of doctoral candidate's competences.

Graduated doctors have the capability to work in a multidisciplinary and international environment together with various actors. They have the capability to assume leadership positions.

They have the ability to search and apply knowledge and the ability to use research methods and to create new scientific knowledge. In the field of arts, they may also have the ability to independently create methods or products or performances that meet high artistic standards.

They are able to publish scientific results in reviewed publications and disseminate the results on scientific forum. They are able to make such syntheses and critical assessments that are required to solve complex problems in research and innovation and in other areas of society. They have versatile written and oral communication skills and are able to work and communicate information in several languages. They work responsibly with respect to ethical and sustainable considerations and their work in the scientific community follows responsible conduct of research.

Curriculum 2020-2022

Content of studies

Doctoral studies are completed in the form of study modules.

i) pursue studies that deal with the preparation for research work, the application of research results and the dissemination of research findings;

ii) gain comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of a research field;

iii) learn the principles of responsible conduct of research.


Each doctoral candidate makes a study plan, research plan, supervision plan, financial plan, and an optional career plan; the implementation of all of which is followed up by the supervising professor. The supervising professor is also responsible for the supervision arrangements of the doctoral candidate. The individual study plan is agreed by the supervising professor before a confirmation.
General Research Studies, 15-25 ECTS

**Learning objectives**

- knowledge of the general theory of science and the arts
- general knowledge of research methods
- academic writing skills, communication skills, information literacy
- good argumentation skills, competence to present one’s own research, and to address ethical questions relating to research.
- transferable work life and career skills, pedagogical studies,

Primarily completed with courses offered by the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture. Also courses taken in other Aalto Schools or in other universities can be included here, as well as substituting literature (exams, literature reviews or essays).

**Compulsory courses**

**ARTS-L0100** Introduction to Doctoral Studies, 1-2 ECTS (1 ECTS compulsory component), *September 2021 (online)*

**ARTS-L0102** Doing Research, 6 ECTS, *September-October 2021 (hybrid - possible to complete online)*

**LC-L1010** Research Ethics for Doctoral Students, 1-2 ECTS (1 ECTS online component of the course is compulsory), 1 ECTS workshop days are recommended), *October 2021 (completely online) OR March-April 2022 (workshops might be arranged in person)* More information at aalto.fi

**Optional courses**

**General courses, methods and methodology**

**ARTS-L0110** Research through Art and Design, 2-4 ECTS, *November 2021*

**ARTS-L0111** Methods of Qualitative Research, 6 ECTS, *March-May 2022*

**TAI-L0007** Artistic and Art-Based Research, 4 ECTS, *Change: June 2022*

**Philosophy and theory**

**ARTS-L0603** Philosophy of Science, 4 ECTS, *January-April 2022*

**ARTS-L0606** Knowing Aesthetics, 6 ECTS, *September 2021 - April 2022 (autumn sessions online)*

**TAI-L0006** Contemporary Theories for Art Research, 4 ECTS, *March-April 2022*

**ARTS-E0604** Global Perspectives: Re-mapping the History of Art, 4 ECTS

**ARTS-E0708** Sculpture Now!, 5 ECTS

**ARTS-E0700** The Realm of the Senses, 4-8 ECTS

**Writing and presenting doctoral research**

**LCA-1050** Writing Doctoral Research for Arts (w), 3 ECTS, *February-April 2022*

**LC-1336** Popularize your research, 1-3 ECTS, *only offered 2020-2021*

**LC-1330** Presenting Doctoral Research (o), 3-5 ECTS

**LC-1335** Preparing for the Doctoral Defence (o), 1 ECTS

**ELO-L0004** Artistic research writing, 2-6 ECTS, *only offered 2020-2021*

**TAI-L0010** Creative writing and other discourses, 2 ECTS, *only offered 2020-2021*

**Research Field Studies, 15-25 ECTS**

These studies are the core element of the doctoral studies, decided jointly by the doctoral candidate and her/his supervising professor.
Learning objectives

- field specific knowledge of the theory, history and methods
- field specific argumentation and communication skills
- required skills and knowledge to conduct research in the doctoral candidate’s specific research topic

Suggested ways to complete the module:

- Department’s / Research field’s doctoral seminar (compulsory)
- Winter/summer schools, thematic research seminars
- Other courses
- Writing essays or literature reviews (ca. 250-300 pages of research literature equals 1-2 ECTS credits). The supervising professor shall determine the amount of credits according to how extensive and demanding the literature is.
- Literature, either according to the department’s literature list or as agreed with the professor
- Reflective report on art and creative practices related to thesis topic
- Teaching at a university, preparing a lecture or a series of lectures on history, theory or methods of the student’s own research field, thesis advising

All independent studies need to be agreed with the supervising professor in advance.

Compulsory: Doctoral seminar

Department’s / Research field’s doctoral seminar, min. 4 ECTS

If the doctoral candidate would like to participate to some other doctoral seminar instead or would like to propose some other arrangement, this needs to be approved by the supervising professor.

Seminars usually meet approximately once a month. Doctoral candidates present their own research projects as well as discuss field specific theories and literature. Seminars teach academic reading, writing and discussion.

ARK-L010101 Department of Architecture Doctoral Seminar, 5 ECTS, whole academic year
DOM-L000301 Photography Doctoral Seminar, 2-6 ECTS, whole academic year
DOM-L000701 New Media Doctoral Seminar, 3-6 ECTS, whole academic year
DOM-L000801 Visual Communication Design Doctoral Seminar, 3-6 ECTS, whole academic year
ELO-L010101 Film and Television Doctoral Seminar, 2-8 ECTS, whole academic year
ELO-L010201 Scenography and Costume Design Doctoral Seminar, 4-8 ECTS, whole academic year
MUO-L001001 Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 ECTS, whole academic year
TAI-L000101 Department of Art Doctoral Seminar, 2-4 ECTS, whole academic year

Seminars are mostly held online during the autumn term 2021.

Optional Research field specific courses

ARK-L5003 Planning Theory, 6 ECTS, January-February 2022
ARK-L5004 Urban Studies, 6 ECTS, March-April 2022
DOM-L000601 Department of Media Doctoral School: Change: Department of Media Doctoral Winter School 2022, January 2022
ELO-L000401 Artistic research writing, 2-6 ECTS, only offered 2020-2021
ELO-L0009 Art-Practice-led and artistic research methodologies in film, scenography & costume, 2-6 ECTS, only offered 2020-2021
MUO-L001001 Department of Design Thematic Research Seminar, 3 ECTS, June 2022
MUO-L0011 Design Research: Fields and Practices, 2-6 ECTS, February 2022
TAI-L0008 Art, environment and activism, 4 ECTS, January 2022
TAI-L0009 Contemporary curating, 4 ECTS, March 2022
TAI-L0010 Creative writing and other discourses, 2 ECTS, only offered 2020-2021
TAI-L0013 Perspectives on Art Pedagogy, 4 ECTS, November 2021 (online)
TAI-L001401 Research Assemblage, 4ECTS, whole academic year
ARK-E1508 Introduction to Architectural Research, 5 ECTS
ARK-E2514 Design of Structures Theory, 3-6 ECTS
ARK-E4509 Housing Design – Research and Practice, 3 ECTS
ELO-E6510 Costume and Research, 3-6 ECTS
MAR-E1006 Landscape Architecture and Research, 3-6 ECTS
MUO-E8026 Designing for Urban Governance and Services, 5-10 ECTS
MUO-E1029 Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design, 10 ECTS
MUO-E3024 User Inspired Design Knowing, 5 ECTS
MUO-E8018 Sustainability Politics, 5 ECTS
MUO-E8023 Values in Design Futures, 5 ECTS
MUO-E8026 Designing for urban governance and services, 5 ECTS
TAI-E3119 Words and Spaces Studio, 5 ECTS

Courses with varying content

In addition to the above listed courses the Doctoral Programme and each Department has the possibility to offer courses with varying content. The content and scope of these courses will be announced separately.