



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

ARTS Doctoral intro

Introduction Week 2023

Schedule

	Wed 30.8	Thu 31.8	Fri 1.9
10:15 – 12:00	Theses and supervision Turkka Keinonen & Päivi Väätänen	Thesis topics Doctoral researchers	Artistic research Harri Laakso & al.
12:15 – 14:00	Departments' research Kotnik, Hyysalo, Helke, el Baroni	Doing research course intro Sampsa Hyysalo & al.	Library Services for Doctoral students Jaakko Kortesharju
14:15 – 16:00	Q&A doctoral clinic – AREA school meeting		



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Doctoral thesis

Introduction Week 2023

www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education

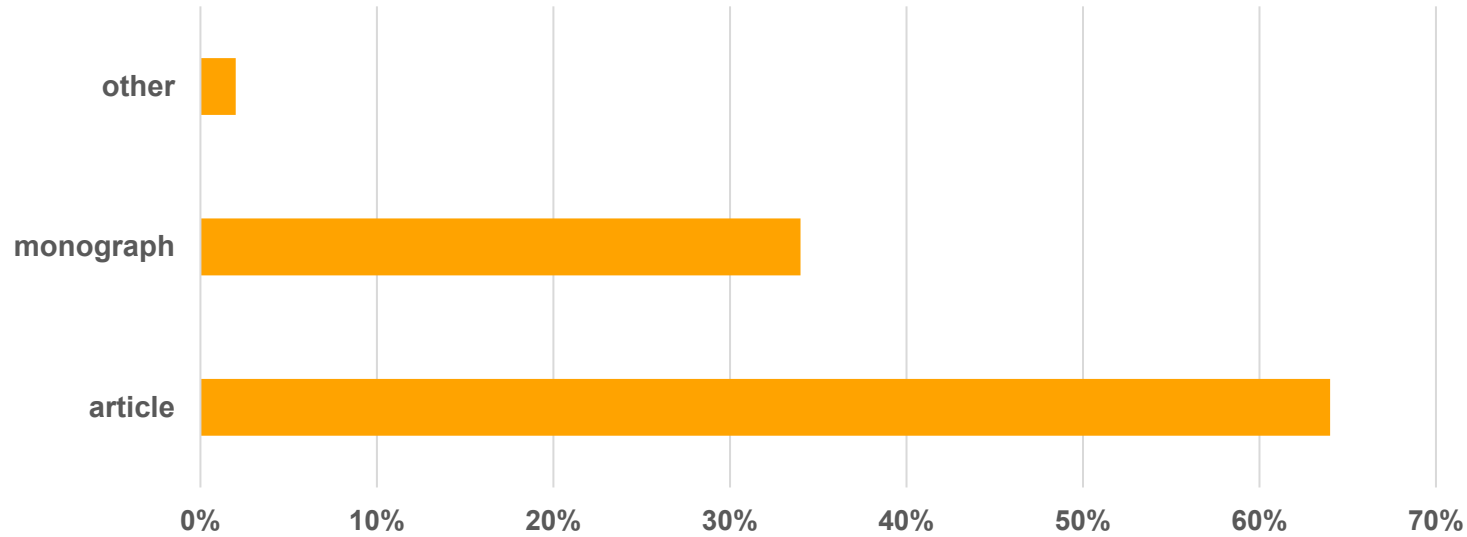
General quality requirements for doctoral thesis at Aalto University

- A doctoral thesis shall contain **new** scientific **knowledge** in the field it represents.
- In the field of art and design, the doctoral thesis may also contain **new** methods of **artistic creation or products**, which fulfil **high artistic demands**.
- The doctoral thesis shall clearly set forth the new findings.
- The **independent contribution** to the research shall be sufficient and clearly demonstrable.
- The research methods used shall fulfil the criteria set for scientific or art-based research.
- A doctoral thesis shall conform to the principles of **responsible conduct of research** and adhere to **ethically sustainable principles**. (tenk.fi)
- Language of the thesis can be Finnish, Swedish or English

Types of doctoral theses

- Monograph
- Article thesis
- Thesis including artistic components
- Other

Types of doctoral theses at ARTS



Monograph

An approved doctoral thesis may be a single study (a monograph), which has **not been displayed in a published form in full before**.

A monograph forms a coherent entity and is the result of a researcher's independent work. It may contain **references** to other publications made **by the author** dealing with the same problems.

Recommended length 150 to 300 pages, but for well justified reasons can be shorter or longer

Article thesis

- Article thesis must include **at least 3 full-length articles** (e.g. JUFO 1-3, classification of publication channels, <http://www.julkaisuforum.fi/en>).
- Must have been approved for publication in a **peer-reviewed** scientific journal or similarly peer-reviewed conference publication or as a chapter in a peer-reviewed book.
- In addition, **other publications**, shorter articles etc. For **one** of these the **publication process can still be on-going**.
- The articles may also include co-authored publications if the author's independent contribution to them can be demonstrated. The doctoral student must be the **first author of at least two articles**.

Artistic components

- In the field of art, a doctoral thesis can also include an artistic component (art productions or product development projects)
- Art productions such as exhibitions, installations, films, performances etc.
- The artistic component(s) have to be in a **dialogic and analytic relation with the written component of the thesis.**
- Artistic component can be **pre-examined separately** when the nature of the work requires that **or** it can be pre-examined **as a part of completed manuscript**

Planning

- At the start of your thesis work, discuss with your supervising professor about the form of your doctoral thesis and if you plan to include artistic components in your thesis
- Artistic components are always pre-examined, either each of them separately (e.g. exhibitions) or together with the final written thesis – discuss the options with your supervising professor early on.
- Publications: plan carefully where and when you want to publish your articles. Even if you would be doing a monograph, we encourage you to publish during the process.

Artistic components: practicalities

- The presentations of the artistic component, such as exhibitions, must be **public** and must be arranged so that they are **accessible**.
- For the pre-examination, the doctoral student prepares a **written report** which should clarify the place, role and stage of the artistic component within the intended whole of the research project.
- The student must **document the component** in a way that gives a clear picture of the content and exhibition of the production or project. Documentation can contain text images and/or a short video.

Other types of theses

- Also other types of theses (apart from monograph, article based thesis or thesis including artistic components) can be accepted
- For these **prior approval for the structure** from Doctoral Programme Committee is advisable

Supervision and advising

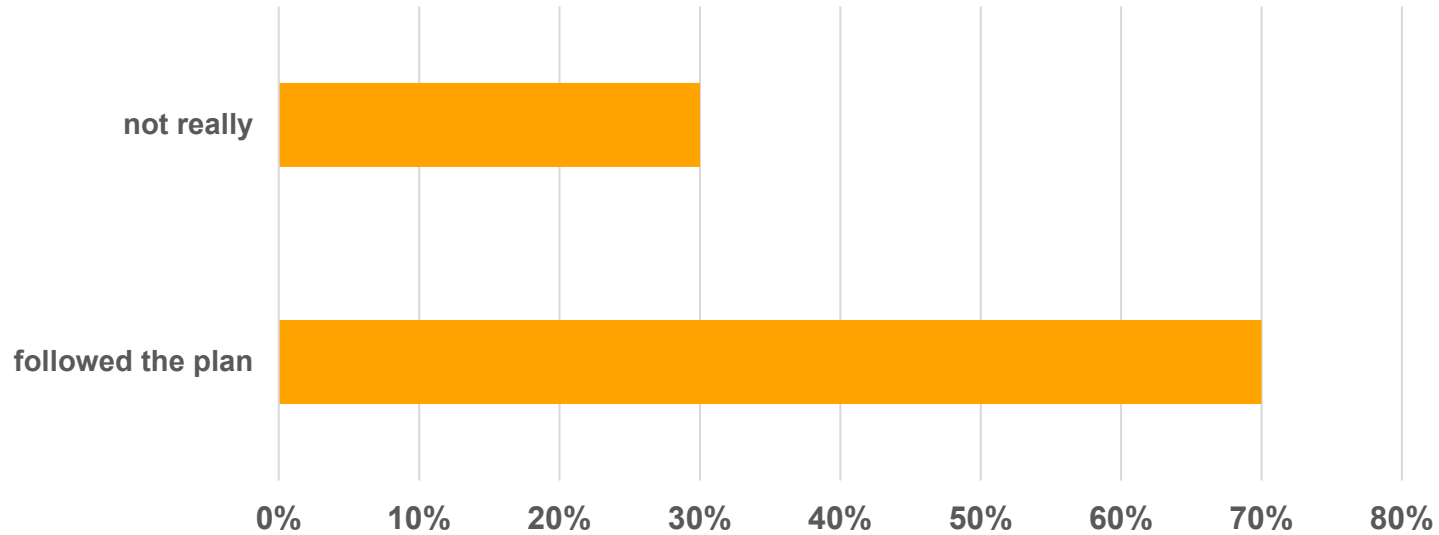


Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Doctoral student's duties

- preparing a **doctoral personal study plan (DPSP)** and updating it as necessary
<https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/doctoral-personal-study-plan-dpsp>
- preparing a research plan with the help of the supervising professor and **carrying out research according to the plan independently** and in a self-directed manner within the limits of the research project
- familiarising themselves with the **ethical principles** of scientific research and acting in compliance with good scientific practice in their research.
- aiming at **actively publishing** and disseminating the research results in the publication fora of the field
- aiming at, with the supervising professor, **securing funding** for the doctoral studies
- **reporting on the progress** to the supervising professor on a regular basis
- making a short report of meetings/activities with the advisor(s) and send the reports to the supervising professor at the end of the year
- annually enrolling at the university

Following the plan



Supervising professor, vastuuprofessori

- Always from **Aalto ARTS & student's field of research**
- Can also act as your advisor, but not automatically
- Duties:
 - Is responsible for the supervision of the doctoral student and supports the implementation of the funding plan
 - Is responsible for ensuring that the doctoral student is aware of the requirements for a doctoral thesis and of the stages included in the preliminary examination and the public examination of the thesis
 - Makes sure that the doctoral student makes the necessary corrections proposed to the doctoral thesis manuscript by the pre-examiner
 - Acts as the custos at the public defence

Advisor, ohjaaja

- From Aalto University or external
- Duties:
 - Tutors you in making, following and revising your research plan
 - Instructs you in writing your thesis and planning and working out your research and/or artistic activities
 - Guides you in independent learning and referring you to other researchers
 - Encourages you to publish actively

Advisors

- Must have a **doctor's degree**.
- In case the thesis includes artistic component(s), at least one of the thesis advisors must have **adequate artistic qualifications** and superior knowledge of the field in question.
- For artistic or practice-based thesis, one advisor can be appointed based on other merits than a doctor's degree.
- The thesis advisor may not serve as a pre-examiner or opponent of the same thesis.

Supervision plan

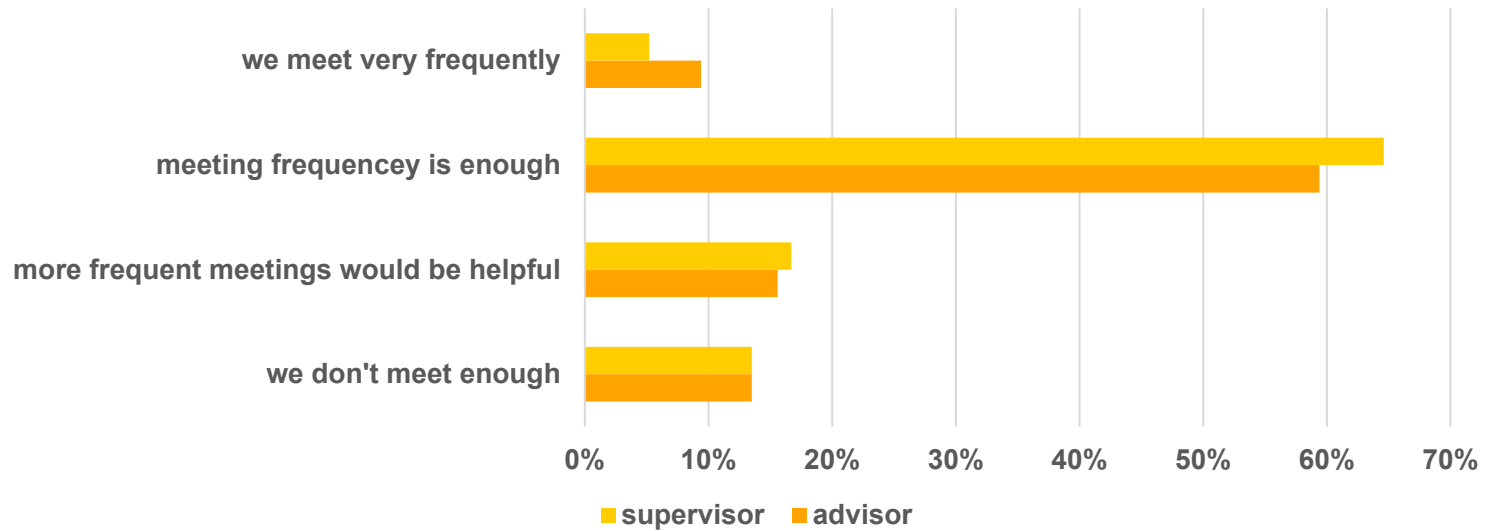
- to communicate the general principles of good supervision to the doctoral student and to offer both the student and the supervising professor/thesis advisor(s) a possibility to discuss and to reach an agreement on the outlines of the supervision process.
- **Outlines the responsibilities** of the supervising professor, thesis advisor(s) and of the doctoral student
- Is updated if changes occur, for instance if the supervising professor or thesis advisor changes. As necessary, the plan may be updated also at other times at the initiative of any of the parties involved

https://www.aalto.fi/sites/g/files/flqhsv161/files/2022-09/supervision_plan_2022.pdf

Interacting with your advisor

- Agree about the frequency of meetings and reporting in the supervision plan and follow the plan – adjustments can be made, but make sure that both/all parties agree.
- Keep the deadlines you have promised to your advisor.
- Plan the meeting, let the advisor know your goals for the meeting in advance.
- Make notes, especially about what was agreed for next steps.
- Plans & notes help you to write the annual report for your supervising professor.

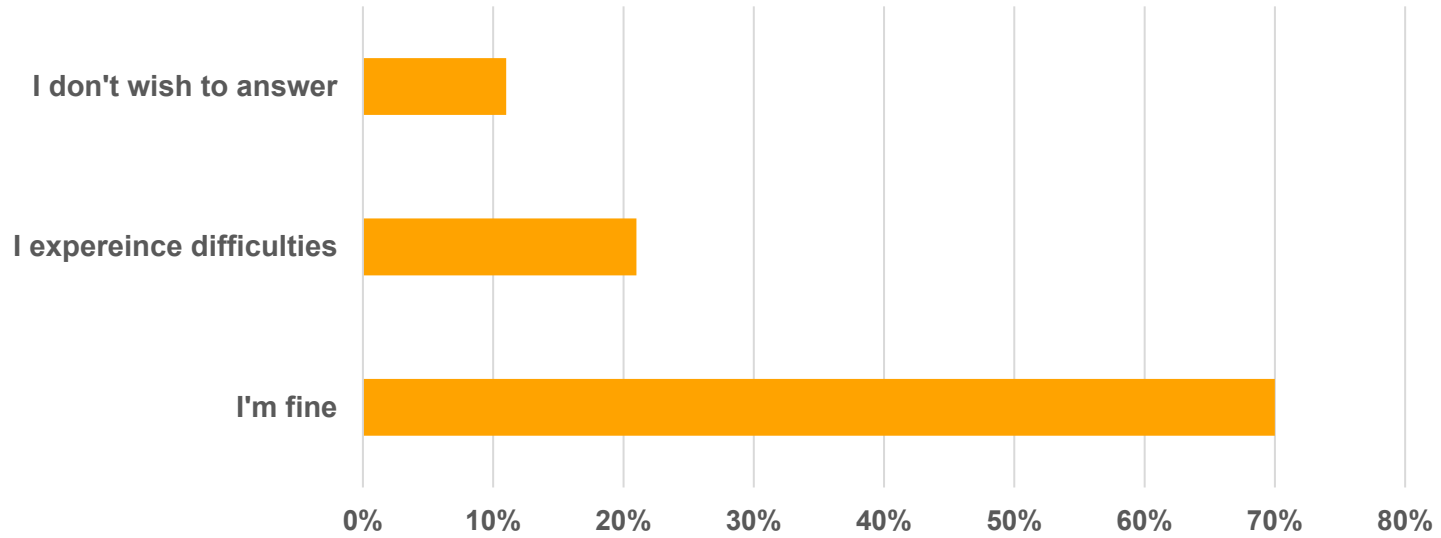
Meeting frequency with advisor & supervisor



Problems?

- Sometimes the chosen advisor is not the best person to guide your research after all – talk about any possible problems with your supervising professor. For justified reasons, advisors can be changed.
- Other contact persons:
 - Head of Research at your Department
 - Head of the Department (esp. if you are employed, also your supervisor)
 - Head of the Doctoral Programme
 - Planning Officer of the Doctoral Programme
 - Ombudsperson professor Helena Sederholm

Problems?



Ombudsperson & other support

- You can contact the ombudspersons when you feel unable to discuss with your supervising professor and thesis advisor. Ombudspersons can give you support and advice on how to proceed.
 - Other support include occupational or public health care services, HR services (if you are an employee) or Code of Conduct processes, for example, when
 - You feel continual stress, exhaustion or anxiety regarding to your thesis work: contact study psychologist for doctoral students
 - You feel that you are treated unequally among your colleagues
 - You do not feel safe in your working environment, or experience harassment or inappropriate conduct
- <https://www.aalto.fi/en/support-for-studying>

Doctoral Programme Committee (DPC)

tohtorinkoulutusneuvosto (TKN)



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Doctoral Programme Committee

The DPC's main tasks:

- evaluates applications to doctoral studies
- appoints supervising professors and advisors
- nominates pre-examiners and opponents for doctoral theses
- evaluates doctoral theses
- develops doctoral education

Chair + 4-6 professors and *1 doctoral student member*

- student representatives' term 1 year, appointed by Student Union AYY

Doctoral Programme Committee

- Prof Turkka Keinonen (chair)
- Prof Susanna Helke, Film
- Prof Toni Kotnik, Architecture
- Prof Bassam el Baroni, Art & Media
- Prof Sampsa Hyysalo, Design
- Heini Haapaniemi, student representative
- Päivi Väättänen (secretary)

Incentive scholarships



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Incentive Scholarships at ARTS

- 500 € scholarship for the first two refereed articles *or* artistic components
 - the application has to be submitted within six months of the publication
- 2,000 € scholarship for completing the doctoral degree in 4 years
 - terms and conditions apply (and may change before 2026)

Where to find information?



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Aalto websites

- **Aalto.fi**
 - <https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education>
- **Can't find the answer there?**
 - Email: doctoral-arts@aalto.fi

Research Topics / Cohort 2023



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

1. Interview

- Interview person next to you about their doctoral research plan
 - *Topic*
 - *Relevance*
 - *Theory*
 - *Methods & process*
 - *Collaboration & research community & forums*
 - *Anticipated contribution*
- 15 minutes – change roles – another 15 minutes

2. Presentation

- Present your mate's research – 3 minutes max
 - *Plan*
 - *Your comments – your suggestions & your own learning*