

Guidelines for Writing the PhD Thesis at the Technical Doctoral School of IT & Design, Aalborg University

The PhD thesis may be structured either as a **collection of papers** or as a **monograph**.

Collection of Papers If the thesis comprises a collection of papers, it must include an **extended summary** (typically 20 pages or more). This summary should:

- provide an overview of the research topic,
- review the included papers,
- highlight the most significant scientific contributions, and
- contextualize the findings within the broader field of research.

The extended summary should not merely replicate the content of the papers. Any reuse of material from the papers must be properly referenced to avoid self-plagiarism. Additionally, a **co-author statement** must be submitted for each paper included in the thesis.

Monograph A monograph typically consists of a single, cohesive text. If the monograph is based on previously published papers, it should include a substantial amount of new content, equivalent to the extended summary required for an article-based thesis. A **co-author statement** must also be submitted for each paper incorporated into the thesis.

Language and Abstract Requirements The thesis must be written in **English or Danish**. Exceptions for other languages require approval from the PhD Study Director. The thesis must also include an **abstract in both Danish and English**.

Responsibility and Supervision The **content and format** of the thesis—whether a collection of papers or a monograph—are the responsibility of the PhD student and should be developed in consultation with the supervisor. As an expert in the research field, the supervisor can provide guidance on international standards for thesis writing. Students may also find it useful to refer to the following criteria, which assessment committees consider when evaluating theses at the Doctoral School:

1. Structure of the thesis,
2. Positioning of the thesis within the research field and literature
3. Quality of research questions and/or hypotheses,
4. Appropriateness of research methods,
5. Validity of the findings, appropriate to the nature of the research,
6. Robustness of the conclusions in relation to the research questions and/or hypotheses, and
7. Scientific significance and novelty
8. Societal impact of the research, where relevant,
9. Clarity of presentation, including language and written expression.