

Rules for writing the PhD thesis at the Technical Doctoral School of It & Design at Aalborg University

The thesis can take the form of a collection of papers or a monograph.

Collection of papers:

In case of a collection of papers, the thesis must contain an extended summary (e.g. 20-40 pages) that provides an overview of the topic, reviews the papers, highlights the most significant scientific results achieved, and relates the findings to the current international state-of-the-art.

The extended summary is not supposed to be repetitive with regards to the contents of the papers on which the thesis is based. To the extent that you reuse contents from your papers in the extended summary please be sure to apply proper references to your papers. Otherwise, this may be construed as a case of self-plagiarism.

Note that for each paper on which the thesis is based, a co-author statement must finally be submitted together with the thesis.

Monograph:

A monograph typically consists of one, coherent text. For monographs that are based on papers it is still expected that there is a certain amount of new text, e.g. the equivalent of the extended summary in the article-based thesis. Note that for each paper on which the thesis is based, a co-author statement must finally be submitted together with the thesis.

The language of the thesis must be English or Danish. Other languages must be approved by the PhD Study Director.

The thesis must also include an abstract in both Danish and English.

The contents and form of the thesis, whether a collection of papers or monograph, is entirely the responsibility of the PhD student and should be discussed with the supervisor. The supervisor is an expert within the research area and as such will be familiar with the international standards for thesis writing within that area. It could also be recommended to consult the list below which shows the questions that assessment committees are asked to consider when assessing a thesis at the Doctoral School:

- *Formulation of research questions or hypotheses.*
- *State of the art including a critical approach to other researchers' results.*
- *Methodology.*
- *Experiments, numerical simulations etc.*

- *Research contributions and quality.*
- *For a paper-based dissertation, also the link between the extended summary and the papers should be discussed.*
- *Quality of the dissemination of science and engineering results.*
- *Quality of the conclusions – e.g. are the conclusions sufficiently supported?*
- *Link between research problem(s)/hypotheses and results/conclusions – has the project objective been met?*
- *References – have solid references been used properly?*
- *The language and written presentation may also be commented.*

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