

Criteria for evaluation of PhD applications (draft)

Evaluation of applications is based on the rules of The Eimskip University Fund and The Research Fund of The University of Iceland. Evaluation is also based on, “**Criteria and Standards for Quality of Doctoral Studies**”, approved by the University Meeting and University Board in April 2012, especially the following point:

“4.2. Professional standards for supervisors in doctoral studies

Supervisor shall normally:

- have completed a Ph.D. or equivalent in the relevant fields. Formal qualification for a position of professor can substitute a Ph.D.,
- be recognized and active expert in the relevant field of profession,
- be active in relation to national and international scientific community and to present it for his/hers students,
- have published articles that are related to the student’s project, in a arena of stringent academic requirements,
- have publishing activity, measured in research points for Evaluation System for Public Universities, which amounts to a least 15 research points per year from certain categories of the evaluation system (Aflstig) or by average 30 total research points for the last three years. Graduate Management Centre (Miðstöð framhaldsnáms) may deviate from this requirement in special circumstances²,
- have experience of guidance of doctorates, including representation on doctoral committees, or considerable experience in supervising in research-based master-studies,
- have considerable experience in obtaining research grants from authorized research funds,
- have considerable experience of research collaboration with internationally recognized experts in the relevant field of profession outside the University of Iceland,

²An example of this is if the instructor does not require either research points or aflstig but meets other professional standards successfully. For example experienced scientists who have successful career and experience of supervising students in research based studies.

General criteria for allocation of grants:

- The doctoral program shall not take more than 3-4 years from enrolment to defence of theses.

Evaluation of projects:

- Normally, two independent experts (one apart from the expert in the review panel) evaluate each application before the review panel's coverage.
- Make sure that the reader is an expert in the field of the application.
- Furthermore, examine how the project is related to the field of science of the supervisors.

Supervisor:

- Publication rate of supervisor for the last five years.
- For eligibility of the supervisors apply the rules of the doctoral funds. In cases where the principal supervisor is not a employee of The University, the supervisor in the department (umsjónarkennari) shall apply to these rules. In these cases, the benefit for the University of Iceland should be taken into count.
- A supervisor to an earlier grantee of doctoral grants, who has not completed his/her studies in desired timer according to the rules of the department, can not expect to receive a grant from the Funds for five years unless the student graduates.
- A supervisor can only have three students on a grant from the doctoral funds at a time.

Student:

- Publication rate of the student.
- Applications where academic staffs of universities are students are low in priority in the allocation of grants.
- Student should have a minimum of first grade at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Rating the application:

- The project: Based on the review and evaluation of the review panel.
- The supervisors: Based on publication rate and experience in supervising students (take into account teachers who are at the start of their careers).
- The student: Based on academic grades for undergraduate and masters studies and the publication rate. Possibility of reference's review.

Grants by option b: Conditions for grants:

To ensure that the doctoral students who are employed by option b meet the same requirements as by option a, the scientific committee sets the following criteria for awarding the grants:

1. The grant should be advertised.

2. The scientific committee assesses whether the student meets the requirements of the beneficiary of the funds in accordance with the criteria of the “**Criteria and Standards for Quality of Doctoral Studies in The University of Iceland**” and the rules of department.

If these conditions are not met, the grant award will be cancelled.

Notify the Committee before August 10th each year, which student has been chosen.

Attached to the announcement should be the following information:

- Detailed CV for the student – including the official transcript of university records and publication list.
- Ranking of the student in the grade distribution of the faculty, both undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A copy of the advertisement along with information on where it appeared.

Otherwise, refer to:

- Rules of the department and The Research Fund of The University of Iceland.
- Criteria and Standards for Quality of Doctoral Studies in The University of Iceland.

The decision of the committee should be made no later than on September 1st the year when the grant is awarded.