



## UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

### Criteria for the evaluation of applications from doctoral students 2019

The Regulation for the University of Iceland Eimskip fund and the Regulation for the University of Iceland Research Fund shall apply to the evaluation of applications.

Also '**Criteria and requirements for the quality of doctoral studies**', which was approved by the University Forum in April 2012, in particular the following: '**4.2 Professional requirements of a supervisor to a doctoral student**

A supervisor must generally

- have completed a doctorate or an equivalent qualification in the relevant academic field. Professorial competence may stand in lieu of a doctorate,
- be a recognised and active expert in the relevant field,
- have active connections in the domestic and international scientific communities and introduce students to these,
- have published works, including ones connected to the student's project, in an outlet which makes rigorous academic demands,
- have shown a level of publishing output, as measured in research points in accordance with the Evaluation System for Public Higher Education Institutions, of at least 15 research points per year from specific categories within the evaluation system (advanced research points), or an average of 30 research points from all categories over the last 3 years. The board of the Graduate School may deviate from this requirement in exceptional circumstances<sup>2</sup>,
- have experience of supervising at the doctoral level, e.g. by having been a member of a doctoral committee, or considerable experience of supervising students in research-based Master's programmes,
- have considerable experience of obtaining income from recognised research funds,
- have considerable experience of research collaboration with internationally recognised experts in the relevant field working outside the University of Iceland.'

<sup>2</sup>

An example of such is if a supervisor does not meet requirements for either research points or advanced research points, but more than meets other professional requirements. This applies, for example, to experienced academics with an impressive record in research and experience of thesis supervision.

### **General criteria for the awarding of grants:**

A doctoral programme should take no longer than 3-4 years from enrolment to defence. However, the prescribed length of study in each faculty shall be considered. For example, those students eligible to receive a one-year grant in 2019 are those in four-year programmes who commenced studies in 2015, or those in three-year programmes who commenced studies in 2016, except in cases where parental leave / illness has extended the period of study. Only those who commenced studies in 2017 or 2018 may receive a full grant.

### **Evaluation of projects:**

- Generally, two independent experts (at least one of whom is not a member of the review panel) shall review each application before it is discussed by the review panel.
- Care must be taken to ensure that reviewers are experts in the academic field relevant to the application and are not applicants themselves.
- Furthermore, the connection between the project and the supervisor's academic field must be evaluated.

### **Supervisor:**

- Regulations for the individual funds shall apply to the eligibility of applicants to receive grants. In those cases in which the student's main supervisor works outside the University of Iceland, the student's tutor must meet the requirements of these regulations. In these cases, the benefit to the University of Iceland from the collaboration shall be evaluated in particular.
- The supervisor's publishing output over the last 5 years.
- If a student has been awarded a grant, and has not completed the doctorate in the time stipulated by the regulations of the faculty in question, the supervisor must account for the student's progress.
- The supervisor's record in supervising students (graduation records).
- A supervisor may only have three students funded by grants at any given time.
- The Board of UoI Research Fund may make allowances for new teaching staff when evaluating supervision experience. New teaching staff are those who began working within the last five years and are in their first academic post (lecturer / research specialist).

If the student is particularly strong academically, the application may be counted as stronger than the publishing output of the supervisor indicates. This, however, will only be considered if the proposed project is rated as excellent.

**Student:**

- Student's publishing output.
- Applications from students who are also members of university academic staff are given low priority when awarding grants.
- The student's performance at the undergraduate and Master's levels.

The student is responsible for accounting on the application form for parental leave / illness or anything else that may have extended the length of study beyond that which is considered normal (see guidelines for the application form).

**Grading the application:**

- For the project: based on the reference and evaluation of the review panel.
- For the supervisor's output: based on an evaluation of the supervisor's publishing output and supervision experience (allowances shall be made for those members of teaching staff just beginning their careers).
- For the student: based on grades at the undergraduate and Master's levels, other experience and publications. References may be sought.

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**Grants awarded through method b: Requirements for the awarding of a grant:**

To ensure that those doctoral students awarded a grant through option b meet the same standards as those awarded a grant through method a, the Board of UoI Research Fund makes the following requirements for the awarding of a grant:

- The grant must be advertised.
- The Board of UoI Research Fund shall evaluate whether a student is eligible to receive a grant, in accordance with the criteria and requirements for the quality of doctoral studies at the University of Iceland and the regulations of the relevant faculty.

If the student is not eligible, the grant will be withdrawn.

The board must be notified of which student has been selected before **August 10<sup>th</sup> each year**. This notification must be accompanied by the following information:

- A detailed CV for the student - including a certified university academic record and a bibliography.
- The student's placing in the distribution of grades at the relevant university faculty, at both the undergraduate and Master's levels.
- Two electronic letters of recommendation.
- A copy of the advertisement, as well as information on where it was published.

Otherwise, further information may be found in:

- Regulations for the faculty in question and for the University of Iceland Research Fund.
- Criteria and requirements for the quality of doctoral studies at the University of Iceland.

Conclusion must be made available by **September 1<sup>st</sup>** at the latest for each grant year.