

Study plan

PhD programme in Health Sciences

180 credits

The study plan has been approved by the Program Board for Research Education at the Faculty of Health Sciences on October 31, 2018, revised on June 14, 2023

This is a translation. The Norwegian original has official status. In the event of inconsistency, the



Name of the study programme	Bokmål: Ph.d.-program i helsevitenskapelige fag Nynorsk: Ph.d.-program i helsevitskapelege fag Engelsk: PhD programme in Health Sciences
Attained degree;	Philosophiae doctor i helsevitenskap
Target group:	The target group for the programme is candidates with a master's degree or equivalent, who seek research training within the framework of a health sciences project
Admission requirement, prerequisites, recommended prerequisites	The following requirements are set for admission to the PhD program in Health Sciences: • The candidate must have completed a Norwegian five-year master's degree, Norwegian higher education professional degree, or equivalent education that the faculty has deemed equivalent to these. Candidates with foreign higher education will be assessed in accordance to the University and University College Act (UHL) §3-5, third paragraph. • The candidate must have a grade of C or better on the master's thesis and as an average grade of the master's degree. • Foreign candidates must provide documentation of English language skills that satisfy the requirements for Norwegian general study competence. • The candidate must have satisfactory funding for the study, generally with a salary at the level of salary and operating funds, infrastructure, and indirect costs for a doctoral research fellowship position. For candidates who have passed the researcher training program, funding requirements can be exceptionally waived in special cases. A prerequisite for such exemption is that the candidate is close to completing their doctoral work.
Admission	Admission to the PhD program in Health Sciences are ongoing. Application should include the following: • Project description with any necessary approval (REK, NSD, or other authority) • Milestone plan • Supervisor declaration • Documentation of funding • Diploma/ transcript • Documentation of English language skills For applicant funded by an employer who intend to combine their PhD studies with other work, documentation from the employer is required, indicating that at least 50 % of the time is allocated for work on the PhD program. The application is processed by an admission committee consisting of the Pro Dean for Research Education, student representative, and one representative from each department of the faculty.

Learning outcome description

Upon completion of the PhD program, the candidate has the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge:

The candidate can:

- *Critically assess which scientific methods and research design are suitable for addressing various issues within health sciences*
- *Evaluate and analyze issues related to the philosophy of science in their own and others' research*
- *Critically analyze the methodological and academic quality of existing knowledge within their specific field*
- *Assess the need for research and innovation in their own field*
- *Recognize and analyze ethical issues in research*
- *Assess the utility and appropriateness of various communication channels and methods for disseminations.*

Skills

The candidate can:

- *Critically reflect on and justify the choice of research methods in a health science research project*
- *Select, justify, and discuss new issues within their own research area*
- *Develop projects in accordance with research ethical requirements and guidelines (including the Health Research Act)*
- *Design, conduct, and lead a research project at a high international level*
- *Evaluate and apply various communication channels for their own project and field*

General competence:

The candidate:

- *Is innovative and pioneering within their own field*
- *Actively contributes to network within their own field both nationally and internationally*
- *Is active participant in societal discussion within their field both nationally and internationally*
- *Communicates and discusses issues in health science disciplines in a reflective manner*

Academic content and program description:

The PhD program in Health Sciences is a structured research education program consisting of independent research work leading to a doctoral thesis (150 credits) and a training component (30 credits). The regulation for the thesis includes the trial lecture and the public defense.

The program is standardized to three years. When including mandatory duties, the program extends to four years. It is possible to take the program part-time, with the requirement that at least 50 % of working hours are devoted to the PhD studies.

The PhD program has the following structure:

- HEL-8900 Doctoral thesis in Health Sciences (150 credits)
- Training component (30 credits)

Training component:

Courses within the training component should be at a doctoral level and should include training in theory of sciences, ethics, and communication. The training component consist of 30 credits, with at least 20 credits to be completed after admission.

Elements within the training component should not be more than two years old at the start of the agreement period. Exceptions apply to candidates who have completed the researcher training program and have an approved training component as part of the researcher training program.

Mandatory courses (10 credits):

- HEL-8040 Theory of science, research ethics and research design (7 credits)
- HEL-8045 Innovation and Scientific Research Communication (3 credits)

Courses in laboratory animal science are mandatory for candidates with research projects involving the use of laboratory animals. This course can be included as part of elective elements within the training component, provided it is taken at a PhD level.

For candidates conducting research in laboratories, it is mandatory to complete relevant health, safety and environment courses at UiT. The candidate, in consultation with the supervisor, determines which courses are relevant. These courses equip the candidate with knowledge and skills related to safety procedures, ensuring that research work is conducted in compliance with applicable laws and UiT's regulations.

Elective courses (20 credits):

- PhD courses from UiT or other accredited institutions in Norway or abroad. A maximum of 5 credits within the

	training component can be from generic (“transferable skills”) PhD courses • Specialized courses may be approved, subject to satisfactory course description in line with UiT’s quality assurance system for education. Application for specialized courses prepared by the supervisor. • Courses taken at a Norwegian or foreign graduate school. • Scientific communications – max. 2 credits ○ Poster presentation – 1 credit ○ Scientific presentation – 1 credit ○ Conference article – 2 credits ○ Scientific article – 2 credits • Popular science presentations – max. 2 credits ○ Podcast, chronicle, website etc. – 1 credit																															
Table: Structure of Study Plan	<table><tr><th>Semester</th><th>Course</th><th>Course</th><th>Course</th></tr><tr><td>1. semester</td><td>HEL-8900</td><td>HEL-8040 (7. credits)</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>2. semester</td><td>HEL-8900</td><td>Elective course</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>3. semester</td><td>HEL-8900</td><td>HEL-8045 (3. credits.)</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>4. semester</td><td>HEL-8900</td><td>Elective course</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>5. semester</td><td>HEL-8900</td><td>Elective course</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>6. semester</td><td>HEL-8900 (150 credits.)</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Semester	Course	Course	Course	1. semester	HEL-8900	HEL-8040 (7. credits)	Elective course	2. semester	HEL-8900	Elective course	Elective course	3. semester	HEL-8900	HEL-8045 (3. credits.)	Elective course	4. semester	HEL-8900	Elective course	Elective course	5. semester	HEL-8900	Elective course	Elective course	6. semester	HEL-8900 (150 credits.)					
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Teaching, learning and assessment methods	Teaching methods for courses within the training component may consist of lectures, seminars, and/or guidance through written or oral presentation. The teaching method and the extend are further described in each individual course description. For the thesis, the primary teaching method consist of guidance provided by the appointed main and co-supervisor(s). Halfway through the study program, the candidate’s progress will be evaluated. The midway evaluation take place as a seminar where the student and supervisor meet an evaluation committee composed of two academic staff members with a doctoral degree or equivalent. Completed midway evaluation is a mandatory requirement for																															

	submitting the PhD thesis unless the candidate is admitted to an abbreviated PhD program. Learning and assessment methods are described in more detail in HEL-8900 Doctoral thesis in Health Sciences.
Relevance	A PhD degree in Health Sciences qualifies individuals of a variety of positions both within and outside academia, where candidates are needed to: • Be at the forefront of knowledge within their field • Master theory of science and scientific methods • Contribute to the development of new knowledge, theories, methods, interpretations, or documentation forms. • Gain an overview of and analyze a problem area • Formulate research questions, plan, and conduct research or development work. • Handle complex academic questions and challenge established knowledge and practices. • Communicate knowledge from their field to society and engage in academic debates. • Assess the need for, initiate, and drive innovation
Workload	The PhD program consist of 180 credits, and as a full-time student, the program is standardized to three years. The expected workload for one academic year is 1500 -1800 working hours in accordance with credits (25-30 working hours per credit)
Language of instuction and examinations	Norwegian/ Nordic and English
Internationalization:	The study program utilizes the following measures for internationalization: • English-language teaching and course literature • Incorporation of international conference participation with credit in the training component • International PhD student environment (ToDoS) • International exchange agreement and collaboration agreements.
Administrative and Academic responsibilities	The Faculty of Health Sciences is administratively responsible for the study program. The academic responsibility is delegated to the Program Board for Research Education at the Faculty of Health Sciences.
Quality assurance	The education is continuously quality assured in accordance with the current quality assurance system for educational activities at UiT- The Artic University of Norway. To ensure the development of educational quality, adjustment may be made to teaching methods, requirements, and assessment methods.
Other provisions	Regulations concering the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Tromsø – The Artic University of Norway

[Supplementary provisions on the degree of Philosophiae Doctor
\(PhD\) in Health Sciences at the Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway](#)