

## Doctoral Programme in Built Environment

### Guidelines for the structure and scope of doctoral dissertations

Doctoral candidates complete a dissertation to demonstrate critical thinking and their capability to pursue independent scientific work. A dissertation can take the form of a single monograph or an article-based dissertation. Regardless of their form, all dissertations must satisfy the general requirements for dissertations in terms of logicity, objectivity, critical thinking, ethics, academic honesty, and the novelty and significance of research results.

The following principles apply to article-based dissertations:

- An article-based dissertation comprises an introductory section and a collection of scientific publications dealing with the same overall problem. In the evaluation of the dissertation the introduction and conclusions sections, the scientific publications appended to the dissertation and the doctoral candidate's independent contribution to them will be considered.
- The conclusion must set forth at least the premises and objectives, theoretical background, methodology and results of the dissertation, indicate the main contributions and their scientific and practical novelty, as well as discuss the significance, reliability and validity of the results. In addition, the conclusion should specify the role of the included publications within the overall research.
- An article-based may include scientific publications that have been published in a scientific journal, at a conference, in a publication series, or other scientific forums. The publications must have undergone an appropriate peer review process.
- Any conference papers incorporated in a dissertation must be from conferences that are respected within the scientific community and have either been published or approved for publication in the peer-reviewed conference proceedings.
- The scientific publications included in an article-based dissertation may include co-authored publications. The same co-authored publication may appear in multiple dissertations.
- The number of publications included in an article-based dissertation is not decisive as such. Instead, it is essential that the publications constitute a coherent whole and that the dissertation as a whole satisfies the requirement of novelty. An article-based dissertation typically includes 3-5 publications, depending, among others, on the number of co-authored publications, the doctoral candidate's independent contribution to co-authored publications, the scientific quality and significance of the publications, and the scientific prestige of the publication forums. At least two of the publications should be peer-reviewed. If the number of publications is not more than three, the doctoral candidate should be the first author in two of them.
- One of the publications included in an article-based dissertation may be an unpublished manuscript, which the pre-examiners review as part of the examination process.
- In order to determine the doctoral candidate's independent contribution to any co-authored publications, the doctoral candidate must prepare a statement (in collaboration with the supervisor), which precisely outlines this contribution and is included alongside each co-authored publication in the list of publications. Doctoral candidates are advised to submit this statement to the co-authors. If a co-authored publication is also included in another dissertation, it must be mentioned in the statement.
- As a rule, the printed version of an article-based dissertation must be accompanied by the scientific publications included therein. Doctoral candidates are responsible for obtaining the required written permissions from the publishers.

The structure of a monograph must conform to the principles of scientific reporting in accordance with the selected research design and methodology. The monograph must set forth at least the premises and objectives of the research, provide an in-depth analysis of previous research, identify a research

gap, describe methodology and results, include a discussion of the results, indicate the main contributions of the dissertation and their scientific and practical novelty, as well as discuss the significance, reliability and validity of the results.

The following principles apply to monographs:

- Doctoral candidates writing a monograph are advised to prepare a statement, which precisely outlines the contributions of others to the research, in case the dissertation research is conducted within a research group or if such a statement is otherwise deemed necessary.
- Supervisors are expected to exercise special care to ensure that the quality of a monograph meets the quality requirements.
- The recommended length of a monograph is no more than 250 pages of text.

*<Approved by the Doctoral Programme Planning Committee of the Faculty of Built Environment, TAU, on 17 June 2024>*