



Concept paper scientific-artistic doctorate

Since 2016, the Film University has offered the opportunity to obtain a scientific-artistic doctorate, consisting of a scientific dissertation and an artistic research project, in the disciplines of screenwriting/dramaturgy, film cultural heritage and film and television production (Dr. phil in art.).

The following goals are associated with the introduction of the academic-artistic doctorate at the Film University. The doctorate should

- open up opportunities for pioneering research with practice-based, particularly artistic components and enable the productive combination of scientific and artistic research perspectives;
- strengthen the profile of the Film University as an arts university specializing in audiovisual media;
- enable the further development of the research activities and skills of both doctoral students and their supervisors;
- promote academic and artistic dual talents and improve their career opportunities.

The doctoral degree regulations set out the **requirements** for the scientific-artistic doctoral project in broad terms. Section 11(1) states:

"The scientific-artistic doctoral project is the result of a close interweaving of scientific and artistic research, whereby the scientific research component predominates."

§11(2) specifies:

"The dissertation must meet the generally applicable scientific standards and respect scientific honesty in the writing of the text. The overall grading of the doctoral project relates predominantly to the academic work (dissertation) and partly to the artistic research project. The form of the artistic research project may be chosen freely. However, the artistic research project must have a clear thematic and methodological reference to the dissertation in the knowledge interest it pursues."

On this basis, the criteria for the admission and assessment of academic-artistic doctorates are specified below, as well as the acquisition of skills in general. The formulated criteria can serve as a point of reference for the assessment of specific academic-artistic doctoral projects. The extent to which they are meaningfully applied in individual cases and how they are weighted in the overall assessment is decided by the Doctoral Admissions Committee or the Doctoral Commission as part of the **Inhaltsübersicht**

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(1) Admission to the scientific-artistic doctorate

In addition to the formal requirements for admission to a scientific-artistic doctorate set out in §5 of the doctoral degree regulations, the following selection **criteria apply**:

- As a basic requirement for a scientific-artistic doctorate at the Film University, applicants must have an explicit professional (artistic or scientific) competence that clearly distinguishes them from the majority of graduates of corresponding degree programs.



- The project outlined in the synopsis (see below) combines academic and artistic research. Their parts and perspectives are connected in a meaningful and appropriate way, for example through common research interests, research objects or research questions. Aesthetic processes are at the center of the doctorate.
- The epistemic and methodological specifics of both the scientific and the artistic parts of the project are preserved; neither the scientific nor the artistic component has a purely serving, interpretative or illustrative function in relation to the other.
- The artistic component of the project can have the character of a work or a process.
- It may consist either of artistic research in the narrower sense or of practice-based research in the broader sense, provided that the latter has a clear connection to film or audiovisual media.
- For admission to doctoral studies, care must be taken to ensure that the majority of the doctoral projects approved have a genuinely artistic and not just a generally practice-based or instrumental character.

These criteria serve as general orientation in the selection process of suitable applicants and in the supervision and evaluation of their work. The selection process usually involves the following steps:

- Contact Dr. Julia Scho (j.scho@filmuniversitaet.de), coordinator for advising and supervising doctoral candidates at the Film University or potential supervisors;
- Clarification of content and formal requirements (according to §5 doctoral degree regulations);
- Elaboration of a detailed exposé (8 to 10 pages) with
 - presentation of the underlying problem or question as well as
 - the the planned research project;
 - initial considerations on the integration of the scientific and artistic parts;
 - Project and financial planning (incl. sources of funding) that is as concrete as possible, taking into account the usual doctoral period of three years (cf. §6 (7) Doctoral Degree Regulations);
 - Overview of references used (incl. bibliography)
 - Information on supervision agreements, if applicable
- Review of the exposé and feedback from supervisors (scientific and/or artistic);
- Revision of the exposé by the candidate;
- Selection of a second supervisor;
- Submission of the application to Dr. Julia Scho, Scho (j.scho@filmuniversitaet.de), coordinator for advising and supervising doctoral candidates at the Film University;
- Examination of administrative and legal questions (certificates, recognition of documents, etc.) by the relevant departments of the Film University;
- Examination of content-related questions by the doctoral committee;
- Decision of the doctoral committee on admission;
- Conclusion of a supervision agreement.



(2) Evaluation of the scientific-artistic doctorate

The following evaluation **criteria** apply to the assessment of the scientific-artistic research project (i.e. the submitted dissertation and the associated artistic research project).

The doctoral students show that they

- have mastered the skills and methods relevant to the doctoral subject;
- have comprehensive knowledge of the relevant academic and artistic literature and be able to position their project within relevant artistic and/or academic research contexts and discourses;
- have made their own contribution to academic/artistic research or to the subject area of the dissertation.

A successful scientific-artistic doctorate is also characterized by

- a relevant, sufficiently clear research question or research objective
- the combination of the artistic work with a discursive component or another type of integration of the two parts (scientific or artistic);
- a reflective approach that may, but need not, include scientific methods;
- the careful, intersubjectively comprehensible documentation of this approach or the research process (including exploration paths);
- critical reflection on the research process and one's own role in it, as well as the findings and limitations, and
- a suitable form of communication of the work.



(3) Skills acquisition

According to the report of the German Council of Science and Humanities (WR), artistic research claims certain standards of scientific research, but differs in one important point according to its self-image: the focus is on the individual and subjective nature of artistic practice. This nature is primarily reflected in the fact that artistic research activity is not only aimed at knowledge, insights or perspectives. Rather, it is a means to the end of further developing art or artistic practice. According to the WR, the artistic researcher sees themselves in the role of the protagonist, who understands the epistemic and aesthetic/artistic dimensions of their work as equally important and also addresses different audiences.

Taking this basic understanding into account, the academic-artistic doctorate at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF aims to develop the following **skills**:

Knowledge and insight: PhDs

have demonstrated a systematic understanding of their research discipline and mastery of the skills and methods used in research in this field and have a comprehensive knowledge of the relevant literature (broadening);

- have made their own contribution to research by submitting a scientific-artistic work that extends the boundaries of knowledge/insight and stands up to national or international peer review (in-depth study);
- are able to independently design and carry out significant research projects with scientific and artistic integrity (application, application and production).

– *Application and transfer: PhDs*

develop formats for testing current scientific and artistic findings and possibilities for testing new practices;

- take responsibility for their results and reflect on possible consequences;
- develop and implement products and processes of significance on their own initiative and with the help of organizational units.



Innovation and originality: PhDs

- independently identify scientific and artistic questions;
- develop and synthesize new, complex ideas within the framework of a critical analysis;
- further develop research methods;
- make public contributions to the social, scientific and/or artistic-cultural progress of a society.

Communication: PhDs

- present, discuss and defend research-based findings in their field of specialization in interdisciplinary research and application contexts;
- discuss findings from their specialist areas with colleagues, present them to an academic audience and communicate them to non-specialists.

Self-conception: PhDs

- develop a professional self-image that is oriented towards goals and standards of professional action in art and science and other relevant professional fields;
- reflect on their own professional actions with theoretical and methodological knowledge and assess their own professional and specialist knowledge; they use their freedom of design and decision-making autonomously and further develop their professional and specialist knowledge;
- evaluate the professional actions of others theoretically and methodically and support their further development;
- develop theoretical and methodological knowledge as a basis for professional action on the basis of research (basic and applied research);
- recognize research-based framework conditions for professional action and reflect on their ethical consequences;
- critically reflect on professional action in relation to social expectations and consequences, develop and implement sustainable innovations.