



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Criteria for the evaluation of doctoral grant applications

[The Regulation for the UI doctoral grants](#) fund shall apply to the evaluation of applications. Also [criteria and requirements for the quality of doctoral studies](#), in particular paragraph **4.4 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 published works, including ones connected to the student's project, in an outlet which makes rigorous academic demands,
- have experience of research collaboration with internationally recognised experts in the relevant field working outside the University of Iceland.¹

General criteria for the awarding of grants:

A doctoral programme should take no longer than 3-4 years from enrolment to defence based on full funding. However, the prescribed length of study in each faculty shall be considered. In Route A, it will be taken into consideration if student has been without financial support for up to two years before grant is obtained. For example, those students eligible to receive a one-year grant in 2024 are those in four-year programmes who commenced studies in 2020, or those in three-year programmes who commenced studies in 2021, except in cases where parental leave / illness has extended the period of study. Only those who commenced studies in 2022 or 2023 and those who enrol in 2024 may receive a full grant.

Evaluation of projects:

- Generally, one independent expert 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 supervisor has had a student that 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 generally only have two students funded by UI doctoral grants fund 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 Route A and C:

- Student's publishing output.
- Report on the student's academic progress since admission and study rate.
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- The student's performance at the undergraduate and graduate 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.
- Applications from students who are also members of university academic staff are given low priority when awarding grants.

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 graduate levels, other experience, publications, and report on academic progress (Route A). References may be sought.

Grants awarded via B route. Requirements for the awarding of a grant:

To ensure that those doctoral students awarded a doctoral grant via B route meet the same standards as those awarded a doctoral grant via A or C route, the board of the UI research fund makes the following requirements for the allocation of a grant:

- The grant shall be advertised in collaboration with UI school or related institute and/or the UI division of human resources and published on [Starfatorg](#) and via other international official channels.
- Supervisor appoints a candidate amongst applicants to the board of the UI research fund before November 15th on the year when grant is awarded. The appointment shall include the following:
 - Candidate 's detailed CV

- Certified transcripts of academic records from both undergraduate and graduate studies
- Two letters of reference
- A copy of the published advertisement as well as general information on where it was published
- General description on the selection process, such as number of applicants, number of applicants interviewed, rationale for the candidate, et cetera.

If the above-mentioned conditions are not met, then the grant may be withdrawn.

The Board of the UI research fund evaluates whether the candidate meets the UI doctoral grants fund 's requirements regarding grant recipients 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.