**OSLO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF THE ARTS - KUNSTHØGSKOLEN I OSLO  
PHD PROGRAMME**

**Guidelines midterm evaluation (updated 10052021)**

# **Introduction**

Midterm evaluation is an important pedagogical tool in the implementation of the PhD programme. The candidate is given the opportunity to summarize the work that has been done so far, concretize plans for further process towards the completion of the doctoral result and final assessment, as well as to think through the whole of the project in dialogue with an external opponent who sees the project “with fresh eyes”. Midterm evaluation provides the candidate and supervisors with input for further work. If significant weaknesses are discovered in the doctoral work, measures must be implemented to correct the situation. These can be measures that the research fellow and supervisors see a need to follow up, but it can also include measures and facilitation from the department and institution. Midterm evaluation also contributes to the sharing of artistic research at the institution.

# **Purpose /Aim**

The purpose of the midterm evaluation is for the candidate to present their artistic project and discuss it with the opponent and other colleagues in the field. The midterm evaluation will help the research fellow to summarize the ongoing work, develop forms of viewing and discussion, and develop reflection and dissemination of the project in relation to the research context. Midterm evaluation will help the candidate and supervisors to concretize the further work with the doctoral project towards final assessment. All supervisors are usually present during the midterm evaluation.

# **Time and venue**

Midterm evaluation usually takes place in the third or forth semester.

Midterm evaluation will take place during the study semester. Research fellow and supervisors discuss continuously when it is appropriate to carry out a midterm evaluation in relation to the planned arrangements for evaluation. Time is determined in discussion with the dean.

Midterm evaluation shall normally take place within the normal working hours, ie weekdays during the day. Normally, midterm evaluation takes place at Oslo National Academy of the Arts, but midterm evaluation can also be done elsewhere if the research fellow, supervisor and dean find it appropriate.

# **Midterm evaluation**

The framework for the midterm evaluation is planned in dialogue between the candidate and the supervisor based on their own project. The candidate can choose how the artistic research project is presented. Meetings with artistic practices, processes and results are encouraged, and that examples from work with reflection are also provided.

The presentation must have a format that allows for critical examination and discussion of the project.

Design and plan are decided in dialogue with the candidate, supervisors and the dean. The midterm evaluation must include at least:

* The candidate`s presentation of the project
* Discussion of the project with an opponent who leads a critical discussion with the candidate by asking questions about the candidate`s project (minimum 45 min).
* An open discussion based on the material the opponent has had access to in advance, as well as the candidate`s presentation.
* An open discussion of the project (minimum 30 min.), where the candidate answers questions from the audience.

The schedule may vary somewhat, but as a starting point, the evaluation is expected to last approx 2-3 hours.

# **Availability of material**

The connection between the material the opponent gets access to in advance and the presentation that the candidate gives may vary. As a minimum the opponent should have prior access to:

* Schedule and programme for how the midterm evaluation is intended to be carried out
* Project description
* Other material (completed or work-in-progress) from the doctoral project. This material should normally include both documentation of artistic practice and examples of how the work with the reflection in the project will make it possible for others to take part in the working methods and insight the artistic research will generate.

If a lot of artistic material is presented in the midterm evaluation, time must be set aside for the opponent to study this in advance (no later than 2 weeks before the midterm evaluation). The material must also be made available for other research fellows and colleagues. The material can either be available for download or it can be informed that interested parties can contact the candidate for access to the material.

# **Moderator**

The seminar is led by a moderator who welcomes, introduces the seminar participants to the program, keeps the time and moderates the discussion. As a rule, the main supervisor is moderator.

**Opponent**

There must be an external opponent. The opponent must have artistic competence at least at associate professor level, or undoubtedly equivalent competence, in the relevant field. Opponents are appointed by the dean following a proposal from the main supervisor. It is the main supervisor’s responsibility to contact and ask the opponent in good time.

The opponent must familiarize himself thoroughly with the doctoral project, and have a critical and constructive discussion with the candidate. The purpose of the conversation is to help the candidate articulate, clarify and develop their doctoral project.

In addition to material from the candidate, the opponent gets access to these guidelines, the regulations, and the curriculum for the doctoral program. It is the opponent`s task to be aware of whether the doctoral project has such a development that it can lead to an approved final assessment. If this is not the case, the opponent should address it, either in the evaluation or in the subsequent report.

# **Documentation**

The candidate and supervisor are responsible for planning how the midterm evaluation is documented for use in the further work on the doctoral project.

If the documentation is to be used further in the doctoral work, the audience must be informed about this (in writing about the event on Oslo National Academy of the Arts website, and oral at the start of the midterm evaluation), and the individual must have the opportunity to choose not to be filmed, or part of video- and audio recordings.

# **Economy**

Production costs and expenses for documentation are covered from the candidate`s project budget.

Travel for opponent and supervisor is covered from a separate budget ion the doctoral programme, and is not charged from the candidate`s production budget. The department is encouraged to also use visiting opponents in other teaching and research activities before or after the midterm evaluation where appropriate.

# **Follow-up meeting**

After the midterm evaluation, the candidate, supervisors and opponent should meet for a follow-up conversation. Here they should also discuss how the project stands in relation to the goals for the final assessment, and whether there are special conditions that the candidate and supervisors should be aware of in the future.

**Evaluation report**

Immediately after the midterm evaluation, the opponent writes a short evaluation report. If the evaluation group reports significant weaknesses in the doctoral work, the dean shall implement measures to correct the situation.