

## **The Government of Greenland's Consolidation Act no. 36 of 9 October 2001 on Doctoral Degree Programmes.**

Pursuant to Section 3, Sections 18-19 and Section 23, sub-section 2 of the Parliament of Greenland Act no. 16 of 31 October 1996 on the University of Greenland, the following shall apply:

**Section 1** The University of Greenland shall be entitled to offer research programmes in those areas of Arctic culture, language and society in which the University of Greenland conducts research. The research programme is a three-year academic course leading to a doctorate (licentiate).

*Sub-section 2* The University of Greenland shall set out detailed regulations within the framework of this Consolidation Act and ensure that such regulations, including study programmes for the doctoral degree programme, are made available to interested parties.

**Section 2** The doctorate is awarded as recognition of the fact that the person being awarded the degree has satisfactorily completed a research degree and has in a dissertation, which is defended at a public defence, documented that he/she is capable of completing a scientific project by independently applying the scientific methods of a subject and has thereby contributed to the promotion of research at a level that corresponds to international standards for doctoral degrees in the subject area.

*Sub-section 2* A doctoral dissertation cannot be submitted for assessment by several persons jointly.

*Sub-section 3* The University of Greenland may decide that a dissertation based on already published articles can be submitted as a doctoral dissertation. If some of the published articles have been prepared in partnership with others, a declaration by each of the authors on the doctoral student's share of the work shall be provided.

*Sub-section 4* A doctoral dissertation shall be submitted in Greenlandic, Danish or English. If the dissertation is submitted in Greenlandic, a Danish or English version shall further be provided.

**Section 3** The University of Greenland shall determine who may be enrolled as a Doctoral student.

*Sub-section 2* The University of Greenland shall ensure that the required resources are made available to doctoral students to allow the doctoral students to complete the degree, cf. Section 4, in a qualified manner.

*Sub-section 3* A supervisor from the University of Greenland shall be assigned to all doctoral students. The supervisor shall be responsible for the student's overall doctoral degree programme. One or more further supervisors from the University of Greenland or elsewhere may be appointed. Supervisors shall be professors or full-time lecturers or others with equivalent qualifications in the area concerned.

**Section 4** The doctoral degree programme shall correspond to a study period of three years and shall be based on candidates having previously completed a Master's degree or similar.

*Sub-section 2* Doctoral students shall during their programme complete the doctoral degree programme that has been set for them. Students shall complete programmes equivalent to approx. six months with satisfactory results. It shall be ensured that students participate actively in research environments not only at the University of Greenland, but by visiting other, mainly foreign, research establishments or otherwise. Students shall further gain experience in teaching or other types of presentation of

information, e.g. presentation of research results at the establishment or enterprise at which the research project is being completed. Within the three-year time period, adequate time shall be reserved for students to be able to complete their own independent research and to write their dissertation. The decision on whether the doctorate can be awarded shall be made as soon as possible after the dissertation has been submitted for assessment.

**Section 5** The University of Greenland shall approve a doctoral dissertation for assessment even if the author has not or has only for a short period of time been enrolled as a doctoral student if the author has otherwise acquired qualifications comparable to those described in Sections 2 and 4.

**Section 6** Doctoral students shall be assessed every six months to ensure that their research programme is progressing satisfactorily. Should this not be the case, students will be offered the opportunity – but only once – within three months to remedy the unsatisfactory circumstances. Should the doctoral student not wish to take this opportunity, the student may be disenrolled to the end of a month. If the doctoral student decides to remedy the circumstances, an assessment shall take place within one month at the end of the three months. If the assessment should be negative, enrolment will be terminated. Doctoral students shall be entitled to require that their case be submitted to the body at the University of Greenland that makes decisions on awards of doctorates for final decision. In the assessment of whether progress is satisfactory, documented illness or maternity/paternity leave shall be taken into consideration.

*Sub-section 2* If students do not comply with regulations set by the University of Greenland or agreed for the completion of a study programme, research project etc. at other institutions or enterprises, cf. Section 7, enrolment may be terminated to the end of a month if the student has shown such gross misconduct that a reprimand or warning is not deemed to be sufficient. Doctoral students may appeal decisions to the Directorate of Education.

**Section 7** The University of Greenland may enter into agreements with other institutions etc. to establish research programmes in which students must participate and with other institutions, including sector research institutions or private sector companies, for students to complete their research project there.

**Section 8** When the dissertation is complete and a statement has been prepared by the supervisor who has had the main responsibility for the overall doctoral degree programme, cf. Section 3, sub-section 3, declaring that the programme has been completed satisfactorily, the University Council shall on the recommendation of the study boards appoint an assessment committee comprising three members who must be professors or full-time lecturers or have equivalent qualifications. A minimum of two of the members shall be external. Doctoral students' supervisor(s) cannot be members of the board, but shall participate in the work of the board without voting rights. Doctoral students shall be informed of the composition of the committee and have the opportunity to lodge objections within a time period of a minimum of eight working days.

*Sub-section 2* The assessment committee shall provide a recommendation as to whether doctoral students in their dissertation, as defended at the public defence, have documented that they have met the requirements specified in Section 2, sub-section 1. The assessment committee shall allow amendments or supplements to be made to the dissertation prior to the defence.

**Section 9** The University of Greenland shall specify the time and place for the public defence and shall ensure that the defence is made accessible to interested parties in reasonable time prior to the defence.

*Sub-section 2* Doctoral students shall be given the opportunity to explain their work and shall then be open to questioning by the members of the assessment committee. The person leading the public defence shall give others permission to speak during the defence.

**Section 10** The assessment committee shall without delay after the defence make its recommendation as to whether the doctorate should be awarded. If the committee cannot agree on a positive recommendation, the committee's preliminary recommendation shall be sent to the doctoral student who shall be given the opportunity to comment on the recommendation within two weeks. A final recommendation can then be made.

*Sub-section 2* The doctorate shall be awarded if a positive recommendation from a unanimous committee or from two of the members and a majority of members of the University Council, who are entitled to vote, vote in favour of the recommendation.

**Section 11** The University of Greenland shall issue a certificate in Greenlandic, Danish and English to the doctoral student being awarded the doctorate. The certificate shall include information on the subject to which the dissertation pertains and, at the University of Greenland's discretion, information on the completed doctoral degree programme, including courses, study visits to other research institutions or enterprises etc.

**Section 12** The rector of the University of Greenland may in exceptional circumstances approve deviations from this Consolidation Act on the recommendation of the University Council.

**Section 13** Complaints about decisions pursuant to this Consolidation Act may, if the complaint pertains to Section 6, sub-section 2, Section 12 or legal issues, be brought before the Directorate of Education.

*Sub-section 2* The complaint shall be submitted to the University of Greenland within four weeks of the person in question being notified of the decision. If a complaint is not upheld, and the complainant maintains the complaint, the University of Greenland shall refer the complaint to the Directorate of Education.

**Section 14** This Consolidation Act shall become effective on 15 October 2001.

*The Government of Greenland, 9 October 2001.*

Lise Lennert

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Karl Kristian Olsen