

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT – CONTENT

The description of the research project at the Faculty of Engineering should contain the following items:

Background

- Give a brief description of the context and motivation of the research project.
- Outline the current state of the art.
- Why is the proposed thesis subject of interest in view of the current state of the art? How will the proposed thesis contribute to closing the knowledge gap/improve the state of the art?

Objectives

- The *academic or scientific* objectives of the PhD thesis work are to be specified.
- The objectives are to be listed in bullet points and formulated in a way that enables them to be examined and evaluated once the research is concluded.

Scope (limitations and coverage)

- Describe the specific focus of your research.
- Consider the limitations in the coverage and explain which topics are to be covered by the thesis and also which related topics are outside the scope of the work.

Research method

- The overall research strategy of the PhD thesis is to be specified.
- Describe the specific research methods (for example numerical, experimental, field observations etc.) that will be used to achieve the objectives listed above.
- If experimental or field data is to be collected, describe the planning of measurement and data analysis that will be used.
- Comment on any interdisciplinary assignments/challenges in the project; in other words what type of challenges and how to handle them.

Ethical issues

- Outline any ethical issues in connection with the project - for example issues relating to dealing with biological matter or someone's personal information, or environmental consequences of your research, or how your research may affect human conflict (for example by being used by the weapons industry).

Expected results

- Explain the potential new knowledge, in terms of scientific impact/contributions to theory, that could result from the research.
- Show how the results from the thesis can be applied in an industrial context or be useful to other sectors such as public administration.
- Comment whether the doctoral work will contribute to innovation (for example a new product, process or method).

Work plan/work schedule

- State the tasks that will be performed in order to achieve the stated objectives.

- A schedule that shows the time required for each of the tasks in the work plan should be included.
- A plan for publication should be included, and if possible a plan for conferences. Any other plans for scientific dissemination should be included as well.

References

- The references used to describe the background and current state of the art should be included.

The description of the research project should normally be between 5 to 10 sheets of A4 with normal layout and continuous text.