

The description of the research project should normally be between 4 to 6 pages with normal layout and continuous text. The project description is to be a living document throughout the PhD agreement period, and to be annually reviewed in collaboration with your supervisors. Please do also get familiar with the National Qualification Framework for PhD (NOKUT).

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT – CONTENT

Guidelines for the description of the research project at the IE Faculty. The description should contain the following items:

Background

- Give a brief description of the approach and issues that will be addressed in the doctoral thesis.
- Why is the proposed thesis subject of interest in view of the current state of the art?
- New knowledge that is expected to result from the research work on the thesis should be outlined relative to the state of the art within this field and the candidate's previous work within that field.

Objectives

- The *academic or scientific* objectives of the PhD thesis work are to be specified.
- The objectives are to be listed in points and formulated in a way that enables them to be examined and evaluated once the research is concluded.
- Reflect briefly on the [NOKUT requirements on learning outcomes, ie.: Knowledge, skills and general competence](#).

Scope

- Consider the limitations in the coverage and explain which topics are to be covered by the thesis and which issues are outside the scope of the work.

Research method

- The research content of the PhD thesis is to be specified.
- Describe the specific research methods that will be used to achieve the objectives listed under point two above.
- If experimental data is to be collected, describe the research design and data analysis that will be used.
- Give a comprehensive reflection on the ethical issues of your research.

Expected results

- The potential new knowledge that could result from the research is to be explained.
- Show how the findings and results from the thesis can be applied in an industrial context or be useful to other sectors such as public administration.

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.

References

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