

ÅTGÄRDSPLAN / ACTION PLAN

Konstnärliga fakulteten, Göteborgs universitet – forskarutbildningsutvärdering med extern bedömning, 2024

Ämnen / Subjects:

Högskolan för scen och musik (Academy of Music and Drama): Scenisk gestaltning (Performance Practices)

**HDK-Valand – Högskolan för konst och design (HDK-Valand – Academy of Art and Design):
Konsthantverk (Crafts), Konstnärlig gestaltning (Artistic Practice)**

Overview by the panel

The panel wants to thank all faculty and students who actively engaged in this review process. We noted that this was a robust programme and that students are well supported in successfully completing their doctoral research within the required timelines. The financial support offered by HDK-Valand and HSM (with their joint artistic research school) is a considerable part of this, but it does come with its own difficulties and complications, particularly the need to recruit students who will be able to complete a doctoral degree. We applaud the faculty on the strong research community within the University and the ways in which this community supports a range of innovative and forward facing approaches to doctoral study and submission formats.

We recognise the adjustments and changes that have been put in place in recent years, alongside institutional mergers. This has perhaps led to a higher number of syllabi than is strictly necessary and a recruitment process that could potentially fall outside of the desired equitable processes. We have made a number of recommendations to support faculty in addressing these concerns.

Recommendations from the Panel	Answers/Actions	Time plan	Responsible
1. Ethics			
<p>All students should engage with research ethics policies and procedures. It was noted that until recently it was understood that artistic research did not fall under the research ethics policies, but that this had now been reviewed and needed to be attended to. In some cases, this might involve some retrospective review. The panel noted that there was a revised course content being delivered in June 2024 and they were encouraged that this will support students more effectively in making ethics applications. This should be reviewed after its first delivery and appropriate iterations made as an ongoing process. It is important that all faculty are trained in supporting students to complete the template.</p>	<p>As noted by panel Basic Course 4 has been revised (i) to train the students in working with the national review forms and (ii) to give a broader grounding in research ethics beyond simply learning the national protocols. One key action is the implementation of these changes in a systematic way. As a start-up, an additional workshop on ethics, data management, research data storage and archiving will be organised within the Research School for all PhD students in January 2025.</p> <p>As an additional measure, HDK-Valand will address the issue of how to support doctoral students in navigating the issues of research ethics at its annual supervisor workshop in February 2025. This workshop will be repeated annually for all new supervisors. HSM supervisors are also invited to this event.</p> <p>Additionally, a new routine in the % seminar process is planned, and written into the revised faculty specific doctoral rules, which places a specific emphasis on exploring research ethics implications of the PhD project in the 25% and 50% stage seminars.</p> <p>At faculty level, work is starting on a policy (handläggningsordning) for ethics and research data, similar to that of the other faculties. This will address issues such as how to pay the costs of research storage and ethical reviews.</p>	2025	<p>Vice Dean for Research and Doctoral Education; Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand</p>

2. Strategic work

<p>The panel commended the faculty on the number of recent developments and enhancements to the programme, and now felt it was important that the Strategic Plan was strengthened to give a much firmer space to clearly articulate planning for recruitment strategies and research thematics for the next five years. This should also include a funding strategy that builds on the successes and thus takes a more strategic trajectory. This strategic work would enable a more clearly and fully articulated space for discussing how the research methodologies deployed within artistic research might speak to a broader audience and act as interventions within and beyond academic settings as well as the important societal impact of such research</p>	<p>HDK-Valand has a long-term budget strategy to (i) use 33% of its research budget on PhD research education, including individual PhD student salaries; and (ii) to use external funding, partnership and co-funding projects to grow PhD recruitment.</p> <p>For the artistic practice syllabi we are especially conscious that we are unique in offering PhD with a specialization (inriktning) in photography and in litterär gestaltning (literary composition, poetry and prose), and only one of two institutions in Sweden offering a specialization in craft, while also being unique in Sweden by providing a research milieu for the training of curatorial researchers. In planning the next round of PhD recruitment for 2026, and all subsequent recruitment rounds, we will give special consideration to our strengths and differentiation within the national doctoral education space.</p> <p>HSM has a long-term budget strategy to admit two doctoral students in the subject Performance practices every third year, covered by the institution's research budget. The strategy also includes further work on developing external funding opportunities (external funding, co-funding, partnerships) to expand PhD recruitment and research collaborations. One such area is the collaboration with research in health and care.</p>	2025-2026	Vice Prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Subject Representatives at HSM
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3. Admission processes			
<p>Some concern was shared regarding admissions processes and thematic identification and the panel recommend that faculty explore how they might take a more strategic approach to recruitment to support pipeline development and thus the research agendas of the University, working within the parameters of national legal frameworks where necessary.</p>	<p>In developing the next round of recruitment HDK-Valand will place a special emphasis on clarifying how PhD recruitment is distributed in relation to: (A) the institution’s 4 thematic groupings: (i) politics (ii) value (iii) environment (iv) materiality; (B) the syllabi’s specialisations (C) the two exam types (general PhD and special-artistic-PhD). Currently we do not operate a quota system with respect to these distributions, however, this is something that we will re-open for discussion.</p> <p>Another key strategy at HDK-Valand, is to boost external funding applications from within our 4 thematic groupings and from our subject specializations so that recruitment is not limited to exclusively internally funded PhD places.</p> <p>The PhD subject Performance practices will continue to work on thematic admission initiatives (which have been targeting place-oriented and community-engaged issues in recent years). This will be linked more strategically, and in a longer-term perspective, to senior research, specific initiatives and the University's strategic work. The successful collaboration with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro will be evaluated in 2025 and further steps for international collaborations within the subject will be taken.</p>	<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Subject Representatives at HSM</p>

4. Number of Syllabi

<p>An area that the panel spent some time exploring in all meetings was the number of syllabi being deployed. While it was acknowledged that work had already been carried out to reduce the number of syllabi, it was felt that these should be much further simplified and high level, alleviating the need for the multiplicity and potentially offering increased agility for contextual changes. The panel believe it is feasible to reduce to a single high-level syllabus as is common across their settings and those they work with.</p>	<p>The space of possible further consolidation of syllabi is relatively narrow. The consolidation of the artistic practices syllabus (bringing design, photography, craft, fine art, film, and litterär gestaltning together) has taken several years because it was based on building consensus across all stakeholders and aligning with the relevant operational unit. The action we will take is to open a dialogue between the institutions and the remaining syllabi as to possible development in this regard.</p> <p>A discussion about the organization of research subjects (and the relation between a coherent PhD environment and complete subject environments) will be continued within HSM, for further dialogue between the two institutions.</p> <p>The procedures for managing different versions/generations of the syllabi will be reviewed by the administration with start Spring 2025 as it may be confusing with several ongoing versions.</p>	<p>2025-2029</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education; Subject Representatives at HSM; Faculty Doctoral Education officer</p>
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5. Teaching

<p>The panel noted that while the teaching students undertake is positive and supports their ongoing career plans, for those unable to take up teaching due to disciplinary alignment or capacity within the faculty, there was a sense of lack of parity. The faculty might consider if there are other institutions or settings where these students might access some teaching experience.</p>	<p>Within HDK-Valand there is a new routine in developing and distributing teaching opportunities for PhD students. As part of that new system PhD students will be guaranteed a minimum teaching assignment and mentoring in the teaching role that applies to all PhD students taking account of prior experience and matching assignments to capacity. This new system will replace the former models in use from 1 January 2025.</p> <p>At both departments a new organization for PhD students is implemented 1st of January 2025, where the Head of Department is manager for the PhD students. In this new organization HSM will implement a new practice regarding how to plan and handle teaching and other forms of institutional duties.</p> <p>In planning the admissions of new PhDs the competence supply document is taken into consideration also.</p>	<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Head of Units and Head of Studies for Bachelor level and Master level at HSM and HDK-Valand</p>
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6. Basic Courses			
<p>The panel noted that the Basic Courses were a strength of the programme, but that these could now be more integrated into a shared framework to better establish their importance to students.</p>	<p>The 4 basic courses are currently delivered by the two academies working in partnership. In developing closer collaboration it is planned during early Spring 2025 to discuss in detail at the coordination meetings for the research school the course planning of each iteration of these courses. The precedent and methodology for this has already been set by the co-planning of the Autumn 2024 Theory course by the two academies.</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand</p>
7. Theses			
<p>The panel were delighted to see well-designed and produced theses and encouraged the University to ensure these were made available and advertised so that they could reach a broader public. In addition, the panel encourage supervisors to support students to extend the range and form of theses, given University regulations allow for increased fluidity; they might want to review other university models to build a repository for students to reference.</p>	<p>A workshop on PhD submission formats will be a standard part of the induction process of new PhDs at HDK-Valand for 2026, and in the introductory course in Performance Practices teaching is already included on different dissertation formats and their relation to performing arts practices.</p> <p>A more concrete action is that it is planned to be a part of the Basic Course 1: Writing Research Research Writing given in Spring 2025. An overview of the Faculty's imprint ArtMonitor is in the Work plan för 2025, and a budget is reserved for expanding the publishing, including costs for distributing as well as for marketing.</p>	<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Faculty Doctoral Education Officer</p>

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The panel observed a number of risks that the University should be aware of, noting that these are areas where future-proofing actions should be considered.

1. Co-tutelle (double exam)

Co-Tutelle projects are a strength within the programme. These are built into the strategic plan and the annual work plans, however, the additional time and effort required to set these up and administer them should be closely monitored and meaningfully directed. This should include a clear articulation of what benefits these bring to the University and students involved.

HDK-Valand has been working on developing co-tutelle agreements as a way of co-funding PhD places. (This is one of several such tactics that also include partnerships for externally fully-funded PhD places.) Currently, we are implementing our first co-tutelle with VUB for 2025. This will be the first such arrangement. We will track this pilot process closely to evaluate the resource implications (benefits and costs) as well as the impacts on all stakeholders. We will continue to exercise great care in this work and note that while we have been developing other such co-tutelle, we have not implemented these because we found the conditions were not satisfactory.
The University is working on developing a common template for agreements for co-tutelle (double degree) and the faculty's Doctoral Education Officer is part of a working group that will have a result during Spring 2025.

2025-2026

Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand;
Faculty Doctoral Education Officer

2. External bids			
<p>The panel noted that the number of Horizon bids in development is relatively high for a team of this size and wanted to signal the pressure this places on faculty members, as HDK-Valand has the strategic goal to generate one Marie Curie ITN bid per annum from 2024 to 2026. Additionally, although the faculty are leading on some projects within the sector that bring external attention and prestige to the University, care should be taken that this is balanced against the needs of internal research development and doctoral supervision. This work should ensure it has succession and pipeline development built into all bids and external projects.</p>	<p>This is an important issue for both departments and we will map clearly going forward the precise resources that we are providing in terms of work time and support that we are using to support and promote external funding applications.</p> <p>We do not ask supervisors to develop research funding applications as part of their supervision task. The development work is being led by those researchers who have specific time in their work plans for research development. All such research development tasks are agreed in advance with the head of unit as part of the annual work planning process to ensure adequate time to the task, and where necessary work tasks are re-prioritized to support the application development process.</p>	<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Vice Prefects for Research at HSM and HDK-Valand; Vice Prefects for doctoral Education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Head of Units at HSM and HDK-Valand</p>
3. Continuity and succession planning			
<p>The current supervisory model appears to place heavy reliance on few faculty and it was noted that some of these are on fixed term contracts. This raises issues around continuity and succession planning.</p>	<p>In order to spread opportunities for supervision we include colleagues in supervisory teams even where the current contract of employment terminates before the PhD project is anticipated to end. This is necessary in order to not limit supervision to the very narrow pool of eligible permanent staff.</p> <p>Performance practices is working to increase the number of senior researchers and possible supervisors in the research subject. A new recruitment is underway starting in 2025.</p>	<p>2025-2029</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand</p>

4. Areas of Specialisms			
<p>Within the strategic plan it would be good to ensure that areas of specialisms are clearly articulated and how they are being supported to ensure a clear rationale for retaining their independence from more general artistic practice contexts.</p>	<p>The professors in the various specialist areas will be tasked with making a plan of subject specific supports in 2026 for doctoral education in their subject that should include: (i) proposal development workshops for prospective applicants in their subject area; (ii) subject specific seminars and workshops; (iii) subject specific contributions to the basic and elective courses.</p> <p>In Performance Practices subject-specific competences are articulated and explored for the PhD students through the introductory course, and also through the regular PhD seminars in the subject. Staff specialisation is supported through subject-specific seminars and activities in the department. These activities will be integrated and articulated as part of the strategic plan at the department.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>	<p>Vice prefects for doctoral education at HSM and HDK-Valand; Subject Representatives at HSM</p>