

# Graduation Requirements

## Duration

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- A PhD thesis **typically takes 3–4 years** to complete.

## Credits

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- To graduate, **30 ECTS** are required — see the [Curriculum](#).
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## Dissertation Format (Current AAU Regulations)

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At **Åbo Akademi University (AAU)**, a typical **article-based dissertation** contains **3–6 articles**. New regulations will be released soon.

- As a rule, the articles must be **published or approved for publication**.
  - If articles **not yet approved** for publication are included, the **preliminary examiners** shall attach special importance to them.
  - **Co-authored** articles can be approved **provided the PhD researcher's independent contribution is clearly evident**.
  - The PhD researcher must be **first author on at least one** of the articles included.
  - The **Dean** may approve examination of article-based dissertations with **fewer than the recommended number** of publications if the **comprehensiveness and quality** of the articles is sufficiently high.
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## Doctoral Programme Recommendations

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Within our doctoral programme, we **recommend** the following to emphasize **quality over quantity**:

- A **typical thesis consists of two high-quality papers**, with **at least one** paper as a **first-author** publication.
  - **≥50%** of the included work should be **published** (or accepted).
  - The decision to proceed to the **PhD defence** is made by the **supervisor** and the **head of subject**.
  - For each manuscript included in the thesis, the **contribution of the PhD researcher must be clearly explained and justified**:
  - Avoid vague statements.
  - **List specific figure panels** and contributions (**data generation, analysis, etc.**)
  - Use a **template signed by the supervisor**.
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## Full Regulations

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-  [AAU PhD Regulations \(PDF\)](#)