



**AALBORG UNIVERSITY**  
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**Doctoral School of Social Sciences**  
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## **Criteria for assessment of PhD candidates at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, AAU**

Admission to the PhD programme is based on a Master's degree or equivalent; cf. [Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions \(PhD Order\), No. 1039 of 27 August 2013](#). Additionally, the following guidelines apply for assessment of applications for enrolment as a PhD student at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences:

PhD applicants are assessed by an expert committee and the recommendation of the committee forms the basis of the final decision of the director of the doctoral school. The criteria for assessment of PhD candidates are as follows:

### **1. Project Proposal**

The project proposal must fall within the scope of one of the doctoral programmes of the doctoral school and be closely linked with a research group. The problem formulation, theoretical framework, and methodology of the project proposal must document that the candidate are qualified for the PhD programme. Moreover, the project proposal must document that the project is feasible within the available time and budget

### **2. Grade Requirements**

PhD candidates must have achieved the grade 10 or above in the [Danish grading system](#) (or the equivalent in a different grading system) for their Master's Thesis/final exam. The PhD candidate may be exempted from the grade requirement, if he/she is able to provide other forms of documentation of his/her qualifications.

### **3. Language Requirements**

Applicants who are planning to complete a doctoral thesis in English and who do not have English as a first language or who have not completed an English language-based Master's programme (or an equivalent educational achievement in English) shall provide documentation that they have passed one of the following official tests with the respective minimum score:

- IELTS (band score): 7
- TOEFL (paper-based): 600
- TOEFL (internet-based): 100

The language test must be no more than five years old at the time of the application.