

Criteria of acceptance of propositions

Additional information to Articles 12.3, 14.1, 14.3 and appendix 1 and 4d of the doctoral degree regulations

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What is a proposition?

A proposition is a statement which has the property of being either true or false, and as such are essentially controversial, disputable and debatable.

Criteria of acceptance of a proposition:

- The proposition can be seen as being either true or false.
- One must be able to debate it at a scientific level.
- The proposition should be controversial and disputable. It must be itchy.
- The proposition must be original.
- The proposition is according to the general principles of morality and decency.
- The proposition may not deal with (discuss or debate):
 - the existence or truth of God, Allah, beliefs or religions as one cannot scientifically reason these;
 - a person (e.g. character, personality). Note it may deal with the view or policy that a person advocates;
 - the King/Queen.
- The proposition may not be a conclusion (from the thesis).
- The proposition should:
 - be formulated in an absolute manner;
 - not be formulated in a negative manner (using negative annotations);
 - consist of one sentence (concisely worded / preferably no more than 10-15 words);
 - be formulated in a simple manner (unambiguously, clear for a large audience);
 - not have more than one issue to be debated;
 - not include arguments.
- The following phrasing should be avoided:
 - "Must" statements
 - "Can" statements