

## **Appendix 4 - Criteria for acceptance of propositions**

Please check Articles 12.3, 14.1, 14.3 and Appendices 1 and 3e of the Doctoral Degree Regulations for additional information

### 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, can be uncomfortable but is not offending.
- 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 of any country.
- The proposition may not be a conclusion (from the thesis).
- The proposition should:
  - be formulated in an absolute manner;
  - be formulated in a positive manner (avoiding words with a negative annotation);
  - 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 are not allowed in propositions:
  - "Must", "Can", "Could", "Should", or "Would" statements
- Citations should be avoided in propositions but when explicitly required (to avoid plagiarism) they should be stated in the following manner:
  - The citation between single quotation marks with a footnote code and the author and year in brackets after the citation.
  - The footnote is placed below all the propositions with the reference to the paper or book cited.

Example: 'Man serves the interests of no creature except himself' (Orwell, 2021)<sup>1</sup> is the main explanation for climate change.\*

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<sup>1</sup> Orwell, G. 2021. Animal Farm. Collins Classics. London, England: William Collins.

\*Proposition from thesis "Shaping meat analogues: ingredients & texture" from Miek Schlangen