

KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY
DOCTORAL THESIS AWARD DIRECTIVE

Purpose

Article 1 - This Directive aims to ensure the high-level contribution of doctoral theses prepared under the Kadir Has University Graduate School to science and to promote quality. It outlines transparent and fair management of the application and evaluation processes for doctoral thesis awards.

Scope

Article 2 - This Directive covers the methods and principles regarding the application, evaluation, and awarding processes of doctoral theses prepared under the Kadir Has University Graduate School.

Abbreviations

Article 3 - The terms used in this Directive are defined as follows:

- a. KHAS: Refers to Kadir Has University,
- b. DTA: Refers to the Doctoral Thesis Award,
- c. EC: Refers to the Evaluation Committee,
- d. CC: Refers to the Committee Chair,
- e. EST: Refers to the Extended Summary of the Thesis.

Fundamental Principles

Article 4 - The DTA is granted in three categories: Social and Human Sciences, Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Art and Design. It is awarded based on doctoral theses completed in the relevant calendar year.

Article 5 - Applications for theses defended and deemed successful in the previous calendar year must be submitted by the last official working day of March each year.

Article 6 - If no thesis meets the specified criteria, the award will not be granted.

Candidacy Process

Article 7 - A doctoral thesis may be nominated for the DTA through the following methods:

a. **Thesis Defense Jury Recommendation:** The thesis defense jury may decide that the thesis qualifies for the DTA and indicate this in the defense minutes. The jury also provides an opinion on the category in which the thesis may be nominated. Theses may be nominated in more than one category, depending on their content. Recommendations must be made unanimously.

b. **Application with a Support Letter:** Three faculty members working in the thesis's field may submit support letters upon the thesis author's request, indicating the thesis qualifies for

the DTA. One of these members may be the thesis advisor. At least one of the supporting faculty members must be from outside KHAS. Individual support letters and résumés, specifying the category for which the thesis is nominated, must be sent via email to the Graduate School.

Article 8 - For a thesis to be evaluated within the scope of the DTA, the thesis author must apply via email to the Graduate School by the specified deadline. The application must include an EST document prepared by the thesis author and advisor. This document, not exceeding ten pages, should include a summary of the thesis and information supporting the application, such as contributions to the field.

Evaluation Committee

Article 9 - An EC is established by the Graduate School for each DTA category. The committee comprises three academics, including one external member from outside KHAS. These members must have work cited in the national or international literature relevant to the thesis's field. EC members elect a CC among themselves. Thesis advisors and defense jury members cannot serve as EC members.

Evaluation

Article 10 - Each EC member independently reviews the EST documents and, if necessary, the theses, preparing independent reports. EC members consider the minimum evaluation criteria listed in **Article 13**.

Article 11 - After completing the reports, a meeting is convened to finalize the evaluation. During the meeting, individual reports are discussed, and a decision is made on which thesis deserves the DTA.

Article 12 - If none of the nominated theses are deemed suitable, it may be decided that no DTA will be awarded. Decisions are made unanimously or by majority vote. The final decision, including justifications and signed by all members, must be submitted to the Director of the Graduate School within two months from the date of appointment.

Evaluation Criteria

Article 13 - EC members may consider the following criteria during evaluation:

- a. Originality of the study in terms of subject and content,
- b. Mastery of the national and international literature in the relevant field,
- c. Impact of the thesis, including contributions to literature, publications, presentations, exhibitions, awards, patents, scientific/artistic projects, or potential for new projects,
- d. Proposal of a new methodological approach or interdisciplinary methodology,
- e. Presentation of an original case study, fieldwork, application, or theoretical concept,
- f. Consistency and coherence in the argument, research questions, objectives, methodology, scope, and results,
- g. Social and/or policy implications,
- h. Other criteria deemed relevant by EC members.

Enforcement

Article 14 - This Directive shall enter into force as of the date it is accepted by the Senate on 22/08/2024.

Execution

Article 15 - This Directive is enforced by the Rector of Kadir Has University.