## Template for PhD project description Attachment to application for admission to the PhD programme in medicine and health sciences

The project description must not exceed 10 pages, including the reference list. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman 11-point font. It is permitted to use 9-point font for the reference list and figure text. Project descriptions deviating from template may be rejected.

## The project description must include the following content:

**(Project title)**

## 1. Summary

## 2. Relevance

Please give a brief description of the expected impact/benefit of the research project. Describe who will benefit from the project (target group), and how the results may be used.

**Relevance and importance to society**

The projects’s relevance and importance to society should be described. For instance, it should be stated whether the project will provide knowledge that can meet important challenges in the public sector, industry or society in general, and whether this is in a regional, national or global context.

**Compliance with strategic documents**

Give an account of how the project conforms to the strategic objectives and plans set by the institution/company where the applicant is employed and/or in relation to relevant subject-specific evaluations and research agendas.

In addition, you should use the project description to explain the importance of the project for:

* Obtaining new knowledge
* Filling knowledge gaps (academic significance)
* Creating other social benefits
* Creating opportunities for generalization and application of knowledge

## 3. Aspects relating to the research project

**Background and status of knowledge**

Give a brief description of the project background and document your knowledge of the research area and your understanding of the key challenges to knowledge in the field, both nationally and internationally.

**Approaches, hypotheses and choice of method**

* Describe the project’s primary and secondary goals
* Approaches to the research problem and/or hypotheses should be presented in a language that is easy to understand for persons with a general knowledge of the field. Please try to avoid too many abbreviations, technical terminology, etc. Approaches to the research problem and/or hypotheses must be adequately defined in relation to the objectives and project plan
* It is important to describe how the project will serve to increase existing knowledge as well as how it represents original thinking and scientific renewal
* Describe the theoretical approach and show how the research problem has been defined and what scientific methods will be used. Justify your choice of methods, and explain how the methods will be appropriate in relation to the project’s research problems and/or hypotheses. Alternatively, you can describe how the project will help to develop necessary methodology and/or theory
* *When relevant*: Describe the use of multi- and interdisciplinary approaches

## 4. The project plan, project management, supervisory team, cooperation and organisation

Give a detailed description of how the PhD project will be carried out, especially the contribution of the supervisory team and the PhD candidate. The project must be realistic and attainable both scientifically and organisationally (including institutional affiliation), and in relation to planned use of resources.

* Give an account of the planned project implementation (milestones). It is important to describe the planning of the individual papers and how the papers are connected
* Identify risk with possible alternative strategies for implementation
* Specify how the work on the project will be carried out
* Describe the tasks and duties of the principal supervisor and co-supervisor(s)
* *When relevant:* Describe how the project will use national and international research expertise and how this will contribute to national and international networking
* In the case of applied and industrial oriented research, a description of the impact of the project and its results for key user groups must be given
* An overview must be provided of the total expertise, infrastructure and other resources from the institution(s) that will be important for the project (compare with Requirement of residency at UiO in Supplementary rules pertaining to the Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the Faculty of Medicine)
* Planned PhD courses and point rewarding activities must be listed with semester and year.
* If the candidate plans to go abroad for a period, information about the research environment that the candidate will be visiting must be given

**5. Ethical perspectives**

The question of whether there are any ethical issues related to the implementation of the project must be clarified. If there are any ethical issues to consider, a description of how these will be dealt with must be provided. All research must be planned, carried out and completed in accordance with recognized ethical standards in research, cf. Section 4 of the Norwegian Act on ethics and integrity in research. Relevant approvals (both application and approval), e.g. from REC (Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics), NSD (Norwegian Centre for Research Data) and Mattilsynet (Norwegian Food Safety Authority), must be enclosed with the project description.

## 6. Dissemination and communication of results

**Dissemination plan**

Include tentative titles of planned papers, and specific plans for scholarly and popular science dissemination activities, e.g. in which journals do you plan to publish

**Communication with users**

When relevant: Specify which user groups the project is relevant to, and describe how they can be involved in the project. The information channels that may be used to communicate research findings should also be specified.