

## 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