

Board of Doctoral Education

### **Guidelines for writing a compilation thesis summary chapter**

Most theses from Karolinska Institutet are compilation theses comprising a collection of original papers introduced by a comprehensive summary chapter (sometimes called the Thesis frame or “*kappa*”).

The purpose of the summary chapter is for doctoral students to:

- demonstrate the depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding they have of the research field, and their ability to identify a need for further knowledge in the field
- encapsulate the aim of their research project and the hypotheses/points of enquiry that have been addressed
- demonstrate familiarity with the methods applied in the research field
- demonstrate an ability to place their own research in a wider context of the latest research in the field
- demonstrate by means of a reflective discussion that the learning outcomes set out by the Higher Education Ordinance<sup>1</sup> for doctoral education have been achieved

The summary chapter should be weighted towards a reflective discussion and contextualisation of the student’s own research results. It is to be considered part of the examination and is included in the assessment of whether the learning outcomes<sup>2</sup> set out by the Higher Education Ordinance for doctoral education have been achieved.

The text of the summary chapter must be the student’s own original work without the extensive reproduction of extracts from the constituent papers. Failing to acknowledge sources when quoting from the work of others constitutes plagiarism.

Diagrams/tables from the constituent papers may be included in the summary chapter, although permission must be sought from the journal in question if the source article has been published or accepted for publication.

The summary chapter is a public document and is published digitally. It may be used to present preliminary (unpublished) results, but its public nature should be borne in mind if, for example, the research group is considering patenting any aspect of their work. Including preliminary results in the summary chapter might also cause difficulties for the group should they wish to have their results published in a journal at a later date.

---

<sup>1</sup> See KI’s doctoral education webpages: <https://ki.se/en/staff/outcomes-for-doctoral-education-according-to-the-higher-education-ordinance>

To help in the composition of compilation theses, layout templates are available for download from <https://ki.se/en/staff/laying-out-and-printing-a-thesis-0>