

Guidelines for regional (-thematic) essay:

The essay will provide a review of current literature within the region and the field the candidate has chosen to focus on. This involves a thorough review of regional literature, both of older and recent date. This is an absolute requirement, and should constitute the body of the text. The essay may also contain a thematic section, which may be a review of current literature of direct relevance to the focus chosen by the candidate. It is recommended that the content be structured so that the text can act as preliminary draft for the background chapter of the dissertation. The scope of the thematic and regional part (the mutual weighting of the two) is determined in consultation with the supervisor.

Scope: 5-6000 words.

Submission: The essay is delivered to the supervisor and to the PhD coordinator (for registration). The submission deadline is at the latest one month before fieldwork begins, preferably at the end of the first or the beginning of the second semester. The essay needs to be approved before departure to the field. The time for submission is agreed upon with the supervisor and communicated to the PhD coordinator during the first three months of the PhD programme.

Assessment: Pass - fail. The essay is assessed by the supervisor, in consultation with the Head of the PhD programme.

Credits: The essay gives no credits, but is compulsory for all PhD candidates. The work on the essay is primarily a start to parts of the writing work and is thus considered to be part of the dissertation. The aim of the essay is:

- give the candidates writing training early in the course of study
- ensure that candidates are well acquainted with relevant literature and academic debates prior to fieldwork
- strengthen the candidates' ability to carry out high quality fieldwork
- Strengthen throughput

