

GUIDELINES FOR DIPLOMA EXAM

Revised after Teachers Council 31. Oct. 2012

Revised after evaluation meeting diploma every year.

Last revision October 2020

Examination of individual candidates on self-formulated tasks / approaches. The exam will be as a visual exhibition of the project.

WORKING PERIOD:

6 months – in the period 1. January – 30. June

The exhibition shall be completed 24. June, followed by exam / evaluation 27-30. June. The candidate will be told if one has passed the exam on 30. June, but will have to come back to BAS in the middle of August for public exhibition and diploma ceremony.

WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THE CANDIDATE:

All candidates have their personal APP tutor with 10 hours tutoring

Tutoring DAV, 5 hours

Tutoring TTA (construction): 2 hours

Tutoring Sustainability: 2 hours

Other consultants to be subjugated by the main tutor and in agreement with adm.

If two candidates are working together with one project, they will have hours of tutoring for 1 candidate, not the double. It is counted per project.

3 presentations during the spring, in plenary, with the tutors present.

CENSORS:

3 External censors:

2 architects (one with foreign profession)

1 artist

In case of many diploma candidates, there will be two censor teams working in parallel, and in close dialogue on the outcome of the assessment.

ASSESSMENT:

The diploma exam will be subject to the following three evaluation criteria, and the deliverables as described in attachment 1.

- GENERAL COMPETENCE - the candidate`s attitude and approach towards architecture and the practice of the architect in society
- SKILLS AND APPROACH – towards the task and working methods through independent, systematic and critical reasoning.

- 3. KNOWLEDGE - awareness of relevant historical and contextual references, establishment of critical framework and appropriate tools.

EXAMINATION:

United evaluation by the censor team. The candidate has the opportunity to ask to have one of his/her tutors present at the examination, and as far as possible BAS will try to organize it. One representative from BAS, either diploma coordinator or the Rector, will follow the entire examination. The candidate has the opportunity to ask others to be present at the examination, and BAS will have open examination /presentation unless the candidate asks BAS to have a closed one.

- United evaluation by the censor team of each candidate, individually.
- Final evaluation / assessment in a closed meeting / the censors, tutors and rector. The censors have the final word.
- Right after the consensus meeting the candidates will be told if they have passed their exam. The announcing of possible distinctions will take place during the diploma ceremony in August.
- Open Review in plenary: a representative from the censors will give a review of the projects in the exhibition in august on the day of the diploma ceremony. All candidates are present, together with tutors, teachers, other students and rector. Discussion of each project.

Public exhibition, in August.

The diploma exam has the following evaluations: **PASS or FAIL**

Fail means that the candidate must retake the entire diploma semester, 6 months.

The project /topic must be approved by the school before you start your new diploma work. In close dialogue with BAS only, it can be possible to continue on the same topic, but the candidate should be aware that this is not always recommended, and BAS does not guarantee for a successful outcome the following year. Diploma is only carried through in the spring term, from 1. January till 30. June.

You will receive feedback from your tutors and coordinators throughout the diploma term. Even if you do not receive a clear recommendation to withdraw or the school expresses a concern, you can still fail the exam which will be conducted by external assessors.

It is important to note that in case of a fail on the exam, the candidate has - according to the Act for Universities and Colleges - the right to appeal the result. The student has 3 weeks to file an appeal, and will then be evaluated again by a new censor group. The same material must be exhibited. There is also a paragraph about formal errors at the exam. <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-04-01-15>

Guidelines for appeals can be found in our webpage. www.bas.org

Candidates for the diploma exam at BAS are allowed two attempts to take the exam. A new assessment after an appeal will not count as an attempt. A third attempt may be possible after an application.

After having completed the diploma work with the result PASS, the candidate will have the academic title MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE.

Important notes about diploma term.

Sick-leave

The diploma is a self-programmed term. BAS provides an offer for tutorials, workshops, seminars etc. The 3 presentations are the only things that are mandatory to attend to, but other than that we expect the candidates to be very independent and take responsibility for their own process and end result.

The semester is flexible, and if a candidate gets sick in the period January-May, normally it will be possible to adjust the work and effort to catch up. If a candidate is sick for very long periods of time, the candidate must closely consider to withdraw from the exam before 1. June and to continue next year. This is not counted as an attempt for the exam, and you will not have to pay tuition fee again the next year. You will have your remaining hours of tutorials transferred to next year.

Facilitation

If you are a student with special needs and will need facilitation during the diploma term or at the exam, you must contact us before 1. December and inform us about this. It is required to have documentation for your diagnosis in order to have facilitation. If you have had a process with this earlier in your study, you nevertheless have to contact adm. to inform and agree upon the needs for facilitation for the upcoming diploma semester.

Postponed examination:

If a candidate is unable to work due to serious illness for a longer period after 1. June when the examination period formally begins, the candidate should contact the administration immediately. This is the only case that will be considered for postponed examination, but it will be judged in every case based upon our regulations. https://lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/forskrift/2013-02-06-362_S
A proper sick-note from the doctor is required. You must be unable to work for minimum 5 days in this period in order to be considered for postponed delivery of your project and exam. A postponed examination will take place in August. The new date for delivery of your project will be according to the dates in your sick-note and in close dialogue with the school.

About exam

BAS has only two formal grades, PASS or FAIL. The exam is assessed by external professionals. You will receive feedback from your tutors and coordinators throughout the diploma term. Even if you do not receive a clear recommendation to withdraw or the school expresses a concern, you can still fail the exam.

We also refer to the document "Guideline for diploma with 6 parts diploma". Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT 1

BAS - diploma deliverables

Revised June 2014

Revised October 2020

The diploma at BAS consists of a range of elements outlined here, all of which are to be presented at the exam in one exhibition.

Three parts discuss the project program, and analysis of context/situation.

Three parts show the Formal Resolution.

In addition, there are 3 criteria to consider:

- *General Competence*; the candidate`s attitude and approach towards architecture and the practice of the architect in society.
- *Skills and Approach* towards the task and working methods through independent, systematical-and critical reasoning.
- *Knowledge*; awareness of relevant historical and contextual references, establishment of critical framework and appropriate tools.

The exercises are all self-formulated, both in subject and program.

It demands an engagement in society, and a reflected and critical conception of what the tasks are for an architect.

This is the foundation for the diploma exam.

The only formal grading is "PASS" / "FAIL".

The consensus meeting must decide if the candidate based upon his/her level can function as an operative architect.

For exceptional work the assessors can give an award for outstanding quality.

Deliverables must include the following:

PROGRAM AND ANALYSIS

The students will make a diploma program. They will complete an essay based on study of texts in social science that establishes their field of enquiry and which can be part of the discussion of the diploma program.

DAV – “The Other World” Intentionally ambiguous, DAV can be variously employed; in formulating and expressing concept, developing parallel perspectives, experimenting, imagining, reflecting, and maintaining an interpretive, meaningful exploration of the topic.

Situation, place or site must have an analytic presentation based on social conditions as well as physical. Depending on the projects, the analysis may focus on additional topics such as geology, landscape ecology and meteorology. TTA (technology, technic and administration) and Sustainability are also part of this.

FORMAL RESOLUTION

Sketches, models and drawings, both sketch and formal, demonstrating a variety of thinking, approaches and media.

Studies in full scale (1:1), can encompass social participation as well as spatial realisations.

Final Exhibition collecting all the relevant material and clearly communicating the project aims, processes and outcomes.

The formal resolution is a process – for clarifying the problem as well as the solution and the expression.

To clarify the task and the problem, and to develop expressions that have descriptive, investigative, clarifying and convincing qualities, the sketches are given attention in our exam.

Sketching in full scale (1:1) is projecting on the actual site with physical elements for help. This is a way of coping with the situation –and it is a way to communicate the important elements of the spatial expression.

In many projects there may also be direct in-situ interaction, in order to reach out to the people involved.