The department’s Collegium of Supervisors reviews the submitted documents to produce a short list of highly qualified applicants to be given further consideration. This group is then invited to interview with the recruitment committee, after which a final decision is made. With regard to positions connected to specific funded research projects or programs, admission is made in consultation with the leadership for these projects/programs. Decisions are announced individually as soon as possible after the evaluation process is completed.

Once it is determined that the applicant meets the general and subject-specific prerequisites for the doctoral program in human geography, the applications are judged based on the following criteria:

- Academic background and previous knowledge: which programs/courses the applicant has completed and with what results
- Previously completed independent work of a scientific nature, particularly regarding student theses (e.g. undergraduate or master’s theses) or other written works.
- Assessment of applicant’s potential to complete the doctoral program in human geography while meeting the relevant criteria with regard to methodological rigor, theoretical understanding, capacity for critical thinking, independence, and originality, as well as ability to communicate effectively.
- Description of planned research project (or research interests), including discussion of methods and overall plan for carrying out the project.
- The applicant’s potential to contribute to the department’s activities outside of the dissertation project. This may include teaching, administration, or other duties (such as program evaluation and assessment).
- Research area and possibilities for supervision and financing. A condition is that the department can offer a productive research environment and qualified supervising for the specific applicant.