

Procedure for trial lecture and disputation for candidates for the degree of PhD

Trial lecture and public defence shall normally take place on the same day.

Trial lecture:

- **10:00:** The person presiding at the defence (Dean or Vice-Dean of Research or head of department or person authorised by Dean) will extend a welcome to the trial lecture and introduce the candidate. The adjudication committee will be present in order to determine whether the candidate have passed the trial lecture.
- **10:05:** Trial lecture on the assigned topic **(45 minutes)**.

Lunch etc.:

- **10:50 -11:15:** The committee is given the opportunity to discuss the trial lecture in a suitable room. The others who are invited for lunch, are waiting outside until the committee call upon them.
- **11:00 -11:45:** A light lunch is served in the committee room. Invited are, in addition to the committee, the person presiding and supervisors.

Public defence:

Copies of the candidate's dissertation should be available in the lecture room from 12:00 am. Cell phones must be turned off.

- **12:00 - 12:10:** The procession enters the auditorium in the following order: the person presiding at the defence leads the procession (wearing an academic gown during the actual public defence), followed by the opposing speakers (first opponent, second opponent, etc.), the chair of the assessment committee and finally the doctoral candidate.
The person presiding at the defence provides an introduction.

The candidate is presented, and the audience is informed that any ex auditorio opposing speakers who have questions they would like to discuss, must register their intent during the interval following the first round of opposition, and before the second opposing speaker commences. Every such contribution should be well prepared and precisely stated within a maximum of 10 minutes.

- **12:10 - 12:30:** The doctoral candidate's presentation:
By way of introduction, the doctoral candidate then presents his/her dissertation and gives an account of the purpose and the results of the scientific investigation **(20 minutes)**, followed by a **short break (10 minutes)**.
- First opposition:
The person presiding invites the first opposing speaker and the doctoral candidate to take the floor. The first opposing speaker presents his/her opposition, including comments on the candidate's presentation. Ordinary opposition/response **(approx.1 - 1 1/2 hour)**.
- After the first opposition: **15-minutes break**.

Questions ex auditorio must be notified to the person presiding during this break.

- Second opposition:
The second opposing speaker now presents his/her opposition. Following this second opposition, the last member(s) of the committee may present his/her comments and questions as well. Discussion between second opponent and the candidate **(approx. 1 hour)**.

- The Questions ex auditorio, if any.
The candidate must be given the opportunity to answer all oppositions.
- When the opposition has ended:
Before leaving the auditorium in front of the dissertation committee, the person presiding asks the audience not to leave the room.
Now, the assessment committee convenes to discuss whether the work meets the criteria for approval. The assessment committee returns, and the chair of the committee either announces the decision or the need for additional time for further deliberation.
The committee's conclusion, which the chair of the committee/administrator will announce, must be either:
 - a) *The committee is satisfied with the candidate's performance and will recommend that he/she is awarded the degree for PhD*
 - OR
 - b) *The committee will need more time to evaluate the candidate's performance*
 The person presiding presents a floral tribute to the candidate. While the audience keeps seated, the person presiding concludes the defence.
Any informal social gathering after the public defence is announced. Everyone is requested to stand up.
- PhD candidate gives the opportunity to say some words, to thank the committee, the PhD programme, the Department, the supervisors, and the other PhD candidates etc.
- Procession out of the auditorium:
The doctoral candidate has now "increased his/her standing" and the order of the procession leaving the auditorium is as follows: the person presiding at the defence walks in front of the procession out of the room, followed by the doctoral candidate, the first opposing speaker, the second opposing speaker and finally the last one member of the committee.