

Milestones

Three milestones must be passed before the doctoral student is able to publicly defend a thesis with the department's approval. At each milestone, the doctoral student must present a thesis text to be discussed at a seminar. The seminars are normally chaired by the principal supervisor, and at least one opponent is appointed to review the thesis.

The principal supervisor is responsible for planning the seminars. This includes booking a suitable room and making sure at least one opponent participates.

The doctoral student must ensure that the School has access to the text in question at least one week prior to the seminars. In most cases the reviewer will request the text more than one week in advance.

After the seminars, the principal supervisor and the doctoral student will consult and decide whether or not the milestone has been achieved (i.e. that the text is of expected scope and quality).

If the milestone has not been achieved, the doctoral student may repeat the seminar within two months and present a new version of the text.

1. Thesis Proposal (TP)

Purpose

The purpose of the TP is for the doctoral student to present and discuss the thesis proposal with colleagues at the School.

Timing

The TP is usually presented during the second week in September during the second year of the doctoral programme.

Content

A TP usually includes a critical review of the research field to which the thesis aims to make a contribution. In addition, it should contain an explicit aim and outline the planned theoretical framework and methods. It is also appropriate to present any work already completed. Finally, the TP should meet the formal requirements of an academic text (references, page numbering, appropriate language use, footnotes, etc.).

Scope

A TP is usually 8,000 – 10,000 words long. However, this varies depending on the type of research that is proposed.

Opponents

As a general rule, one opponent should be a researcher from within the School, preferably with a similar research interest. The main opponent must have a PhD, and, if possible, the second opponent should be a doctoral student whose TP has been approved.

Reporting

The principal supervisor should determine and report the grade of the TP to the research coordinator.

2. Midterm seminar (MS)**Purpose**

The purpose of the midterm seminar is to present the thesis project to colleagues at the School in order for them to review and comment on the work halfway through.

Timing

The midterm seminar is usually held during the fifth semester of the doctoral programme. Adjustments can be made depending on departmental duties.

Content

The MS for a monograph thesis should include a critical discussion of a problem, a research question, a defined aim, and some empirical data. If the doctoral student is writing a compilation thesis, the MS usually contains an introductory chapter and one or two finished articles. It should also include a draft of the two remaining articles. Finally, the MS should meet the formal requirements of an academic text (references, page numbering, appropriate language use, footnotes, etc.).

Opponents

As a general rule, the opponent should be a researcher with a PhD from within the School, although opponents from other departments might be an alternative. Preferably, there should be two opponents at the MS, one of whom is from the School. If the internal opponent is a doctoral student, he/she must have completed his/her own MS.

Reporting

The principal supervisor should determine and report the grade of the MS to the research coordinator.

3. Final draft seminar (DS)**Purpose**

The purpose of the DS is for the doctoral student to present an almost complete thesis manuscript. The attending opponents and colleagues will comment on its strengths and weaknesses. The opponents and the supervisor will assess whether the manuscript is ready for completion and if it can be publicly defended within a reasonable time.

Timing

The DS is usually held during the second to last semester of the doctoral programme.

Content

The DS for a monograph thesis should include all parts that are to be included in the final thesis. If the doctoral student is writing a compilation thesis, the DS manuscript usually contains an introductory chapter and four finished articles.

Opponents

As a general rule, there should be two opponents, one of whom is a researcher at the School. The internal opponent must hold the rank of associate professor or higher, and should later be the School's representative on the thesis committee during the public defence. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that suitable opponents are available.

Reporting

The principal supervisor should determine and report the grade to the research coordinator and the internal opponent.