

The public defence (*defensio*) of the doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies

The public defence takes 60 minutes in all, of which a maximum of 20 minutes are devoted to the presentation by the candidate and about 30 minutes to the examination by the appointed thesis committee. The thesis committee then holds an internal discussion about the conduct and result of the defence.

The student's task during the defence is to present their doctoral thesis, to take into account any issues raised in the reviewers' reports, to respond to questions from the thesis committee and to "defend" their thesis against any points of criticism.

The task of the thesis committee is to support and guide the process of discussion about the doctoral project, to pose questions about it to the student and, where appropriate, to address any remaining issues arising from the reviewers' reports.

The assessment of the defence is based solely on the candidate's oral performance in the presentation and discussion parts of the procedure. The doctoral thesis will already have been assessed separately and so does not form part of the grading of the defence.

The grades to be awarded for the defence range from 1 to 5, with 1 being the best (excellent) and 5 the worst (insufficient). Grade 5 thus means that the candidate has not passed. Each examiner awards a grade individually and no overall grade needs to be agreed upon within the committee. The final grade can either be the one awarded by the majority of examiners (for example: 1,1,1,3 = 1) or calculated as the arithmetic mean (if all grades vary, for example: 1,2,3,4 = 2).