

Protocol Form – thesis defense

Formal setting

The doctoral examination takes place in the form of a thesis defense, which consists of a public part with a 40 to 45-minute lecture, followed by questions by the audience and a 60-minute closed discussion/exam. It is up to the thesis committee to decide which part the public or the closed exam comes first.

Examiners are the thesis supervisor, the co-advisor, at least one external examiner and the mentor. The mentor chairs the thesis defense including the closed exam.

Public Talk

- ✓ 40-45-min public talk in the setting of an Institute or Department Seminar Series
- ✓ Presence of thesis committee (supervisor, co-advisor, mentor and external co-referee)

- ✓ Brief public discussion

Closed discussion/exam

- ✓ Presence of thesis committee (supervisor, co-advisor, mentor and external co-referee)
- ✓ The candidate and the thesis committee thoroughly discuss the research project, the results and its strengths and weaknesses in a scientific context and evaluate the background knowledge of the candidate
- ✓ During this closed discussion/exam, the candidate also presents his/her outlook on the project, so that his conceptual understanding of the project can be assessed
- ✓ The mentor (or alternatively any thesis committee member) takes notes during the closed discussion/exam and all sign the protocol at the end of the thesis

Protocol form thesis defense

Name:

Supervisor:

Place, date

Questions and notes

Examiners

Name

Signature

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