

PHD

PROCEDURES FOR TRIAL LECTURE AND DOCTORAL DEFENCE

The final elements of the PhD-studies are a public trial lecture on a prescribed topic and a doctoral defence. The trial lecture is held before the actual defence on the same day. The faculty appoints the first and second opponents based on the committee's suggestion.

The time frame for the trial lecture is 45 minutes. On the completion of the trial lecture, the adjudication committee evaluates the lecture. If the adjudication committee finds the trial lecture satisfactory, they sign a protocol of approval.

The defence is opened by the Dean of the Faculty or by a person delegated such authority. The leader of the defence gives an account of the submission and the evaluation of the thesis, the trial lecture and the evaluation thereof. Afterwards, the doctoral candidate presents significant aspects of the thesis. The candidate has 15-20 minutes for this presentation.

The first opponent opens the discussion of the dissertation with the doctoral candidate. After the first opponent is done there is a 20-minute break before the second opponent continues the discussion. The first opponent has 90 minutes at their disposal while the second opponent can use up to 60 minutes. The candidate responds to the opponents' criticism and remarks throughout the discussion. The opponents engage in a critical discussion of the central aspects of the thesis, its results, methodology, theoretical application, and so on and so forth. They are free to decide for themselves how to carry out the opposition, what elements of the thesis to focus on, and how to divide the questions between them.

Other persons present who wish to participate in the discussion during the defence must give notice of this to the leader of the defence within the time announced at the beginning.

After the defence, the adjudication committee evaluates the defence. If the adjudication committee finds the defence of the thesis satisfactory, they sign a protocol of approval.