

Agenda for the public doctoral dissertation

1. **The Chair** opens the public dissertation by presenting the respondent Candidate, the faculty opponent and the members of the examining committee, and describes the agenda for the dissertation.
2. **The respondent** is invited to comment on the details of the errata list of significance for the understanding of the text.
3. **The faculty opponent** gives a brief summary of the content of the thesis (approx 30-40 minutes). The aim of this is twofold: (i) as not everybody in the audience can be expected to have read the full thesis thoroughly, this enables them to get an idea of the main content of the thesis before the following discussion; (ii) it gives the respondent a view of how the opponent has interpreted his/her thesis, and a chance to relax and make notes before the questioning. Sometimes the opponent takes the opportunity during this presentation to give hints of some of the areas (s)he wants to discuss in the following questioning and discussion.

Quite often the opponent finishes the summary by inviting the respondent to comment on it: 'have I understood the main idea and content of your thesis?'; 'are there any vital parts I've missed?'. In short 'is it your thesis that I've read?'.

4. **The faculty opponent** conducts the *Viva Voce* of the Candidate, the questioning and the discussion of the thesis, on the basis of his/her own agenda, priorities and choice. This part of the dissertation goes on until the faculty opponent is satisfied with the answers and the discussion (normally approx 1-1 1/2 hours). After that (s)he hands over the word to the Chair.

As a conclusion of this first part of the public dissertation, the faculty opponent quite often gives a brief summarizing comment of the thesis as a whole, and of the achievements of the Candidate during the Viva.

5. **The Chair** opens the public seminar in which everyone in the audience, including the members of the examining committee, is invited to put questions to the Candidate.
6. When no questions are left, **the Chair** closes the public dissertation.
7. **The examining committee** withdraws for discussion and considerations. The meeting is chaired by one of the members of the committee elected among themselves just before the meeting starts. The faculty opponent, the supervisor(s) and the chair are invited to attend the meeting and to answer questions from the examining committee.
8. After the meeting of the examining committee is closed, it returns to the room where the candidate is waiting and **the Chair of the examining committee** announces the decision whether the doctoral thesis is passed.