

PROCEDURE FOR THE DEFENCE OF DOCTORAL THESIS AT THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

The auditorium where the defence is to be held must have:

Two rostrums, the one on the right for the candidate and the one on the left for the opponents, **a desk** (with a green tablecloth) and **a chair** placed to one side of the rostrums, for the use of the person chairing the proceedings.

Before the defence starts, at least ten copies of the thesis should be made available in the auditorium for use by the audience. The copies of the thesis are usually collected again after the defence, and this should be stated on the cover of the copies.

Both the doctoral candidate and the opponents are expected to **dress formally** at the defence. The whole ceremony normally takes between two and two and a half hours, and it is open to the public. The candidate's family, fellow students and colleagues are usually present.

❖ **Academic procession:**

The doctoral candidate, the committee and the leader of the defence enter the auditorium in procession in the following order:

- Leader of the defence (Dean)
- Opponent (the first opponent)
- Opponent
- Third member of the committee
- Doctoral candidate

❖ **Introduction by the leader of the defence:**

The leader of the defence gives brief information, stating:

- who the doctoral candidate is
- when he or she was admitted to the ph.d. programme
- who has (or have) been supervisor(s)
- that the programme of study has been completed
- the thesis, its title and submission date
- the composition of the evaluation committee and the approval of the thesis for defence
- the opponents

❖ **The doctoral candidate's presentation:**

The doctoral candidate presents his or her work (objective and findings/ results) before the scholarly discussion starts. The presentation should last for approx. 30-40 minutes.

❖ **Opponents, examination and the evaluation of the doctoral candidate's defence:**

Two members of the evaluation committee act as opponents. The opponents agree in advance on the division of tasks between themselves and inform the leader of the defence.

- *The first opponent is given the floor.* He or she gives a brief résumé (5-15 minutes) in which the doctoral candidate's scholarly work is put in an international perspective. *He/she then examines the candidate.*
- (Break, if applicable)
- *The second opponent is given the floor and examines the doctoral candidate.*

- *The leader of the defence* invites questions from those present.
- The committee and the leader of the defence withdraw to evaluate the presentation and defence of the thesis, the order is as follows:
 - Leader of the defence (Dean)
 - Opponent (the first opponent)
 - Opponent
 - Third member of the committee
- The committee and the leader of the defence return to the auditorium.
If desirable, the opponents may be given an opportunity to make further comment.
- *The leader of the defence* announces the outcome of the evaluation and the defence proceedings are closed.

❖ **The doctoral candidate's speech of thanks:**

The doctoral candidate (if he/she so wishes) is given the floor (to make a speech of thanks etc.).

❖ **The academic procession out of the auditorium:**

The doctoral committee, the committee and the leader of the defence march out in academic procession. As a tribute to the doctoral candidate's new status, the order is as follows:

- The doctoral candidate
- Opponent (the first opponent)
- Opponent
- Third committee member
- Leader of the defence (Dean)