

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FINAL STAGES OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROCESS

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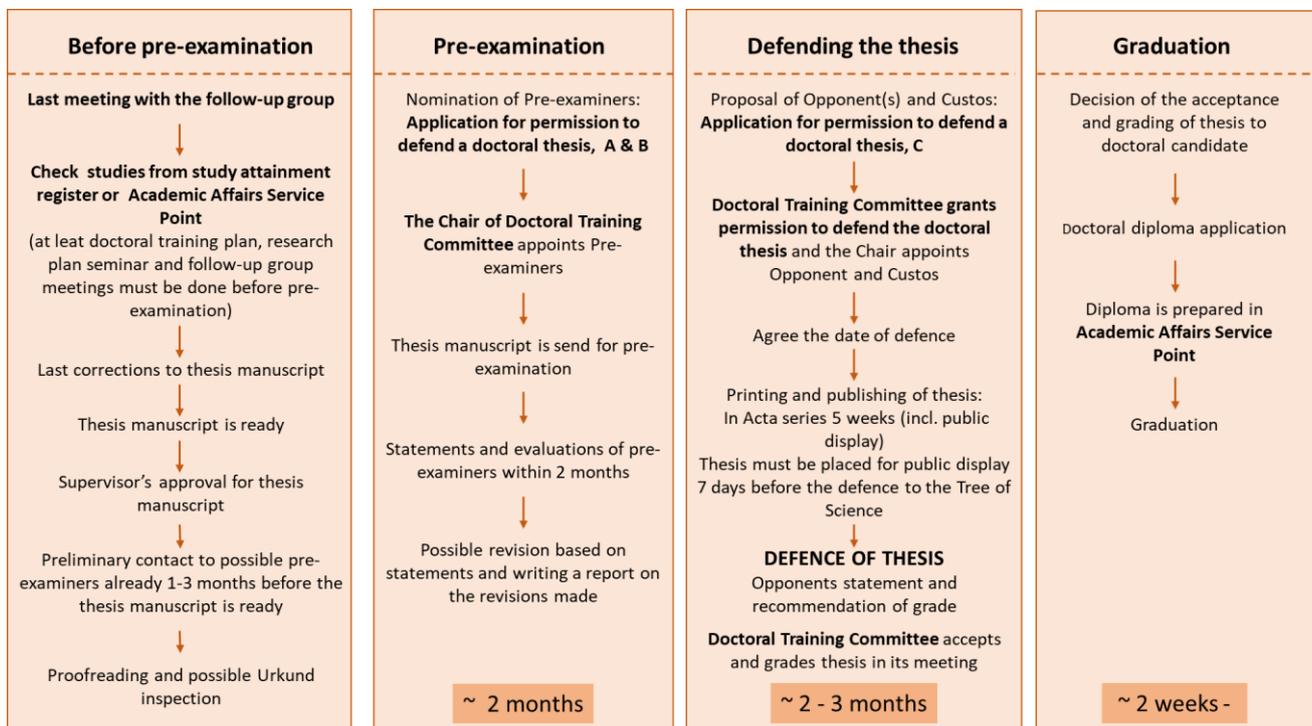


Figure 1. Summary of the final stages of the doctoral journey and their duration.

Important: Exceptions to these regulations and guidelines may arise in cases where the doctoral researcher is undertaking a Joint, or Double Doctoral Degree with another University. Such exceptions are detailed, on a case-by-case basis, in the formal *Joint/Double Doctoral Degree Co-Supervision Agreement* established with the partner institution(s).

1. Before pre-examination

- Discuss with your supervisor about suitable pre-examiners and opponents. As three doctoral thesis experts are required, it is recommended that the list includes a minimum of five names in case some of the people proposed are unable to accept the honour.
- Schedule the third and last follow-up group meeting.
- Check that the completed courses are recorded in WebOodi. The following doctoral studies must be registered before the doctoral thesis is granted a permission for pre-examination:
 - Doctoral training plan, 3 credits
 - Follow-up Group Reporting and meetings, 1 credit
 - Research Plan and Seminar, seminar, 1 credit
- Check that you are registered as present to University and your study-right has not been passivated.
- It is recommended that the thesis is transformed to a document template of the selected publication series (e.g. Acta Universitatis, [Publisher's instructions](#)).
- Obtain written permission to republish the original articles, pictures or tables from the publishers (more information see <http://libguides oulu.fi/actaguide/originalpublications>).

Proofreading and Urkund inspection

A linguistic review of the doctoral thesis is made by submitting the thesis to a proofreader (this also applies to theses in Finnish) already before submitting the thesis for pre-examination. A large number of typing or grammatical errors could influence the grade proposed by the experts. The changes to the manuscript made after the pre-examination may be proofread separately before submitting the thesis to the publisher. Doctoral researcher should check from his/her supervisor whether the research group / research unit / faculty pays the linguistic review.

The Graduate School recommends submitting the doctoral thesis manuscript for a plagiarism detection inspection in Urkund. The Urkund inspection may be omitted, but only upon approval by the principal supervisor of the doctoral thesis. In such cases, the supervisors and the doctoral researcher must verify with extra care that the manuscript meets the authenticity requirements. In the case of compilation theses, the doctoral thesis without references and original articles is uploaded into the Urkund system. Monographs are uploaded without the references.

A link to Urkund instructions for doctoral researcher s: <http://www oulu.fi/urkund>

A link to Urkund instructions for supervisors: <http://www oulu.fi/urkundsystem/teacher>

The Urkund helpdesk will answer any technical questions by e-mail: urkund@oulu.fi

2. Pre-examination of the doctoral thesis manuscript

2.1 Requirements of doctoral thesis experts (pre-examiners and opponents)

At least two *reviewers* and at least one *opponent* must be appointed for the examination of the doctoral thesis. These should usually include three different people, although well-justified exceptions (e.g. specificity of the study field or language of the research) may be made upon approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Permission for exemption must be applied for by submitting a free-form written application to the faculty's Lead Specialist with the **part C** of the **application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis** (KJ §16).

In all cases, the doctoral thesis experts must meet the following criteria:

- All must have a doctorate. At least one of the opponents and at least one of the reviewers must be at least at the academic level of a *docent*¹. One of the reviewers may also be a doctorate holder, who has gained practical expertise in non-academic sector after the graduation or is working at the second stage of the academic research career (such as a postdoctoral researcher).
- All must be from outside of the University of Oulu.

¹ A researcher is considered to be at the academic level of a docent if he/she is a senior lecturer at a university or has been evaluated as qualified at the third or fourth stage of the academic career system via an external expert assessment. Typically, such researchers are professors, associate professors, university/senior/Academy research fellows. University lecturer is not automatically considered as a docent level position.

- The doctoral thesis experts may not be co-authors of any of the publications included in the doctoral thesis or have published anything together with the doctoral researcher **during the past six years**.
- A person who is engaged in close cooperation with the supervisors cannot be a doctoral thesis expert. Here, the term “close cooperation” refers for example to a significant joint publication, or a project-natured cooperation **during the past three years**. Any cooperation must be notified when submitting the proposals for the appointment of the reviewers (part A & B) and opponent (part C).
- A docent of the University of Oulu may be appointed as a doctoral thesis expert if he/she occupies a post on a fulltime basis outside the University of Oulu (and an organization closely tied to it such as University Hospital).
- The doctoral thesis experts may not be supervisors of the doctoral thesis, or current or former members of the candidate’s follow-up group.
- An emeritus/emerita professor of the University of Oulu cannot be a doctoral thesis expert.
- A person who has defended his/her doctoral thesis at the University of Oulu may be a doctoral thesis expert if he/she have worked as an independent scholar, or as a professional scholar outside the University of Oulu for a minimum of five years after the defence of his/her doctoral thesis.

The chairperson of the Graduate School’s Doctoral Training Committee will assess and decide upon the above-mentioned criteria.

Doctoral training committee for Health and Biosciences

- The doctoral thesis expert is not disqualified, if he/she is part of the same *multicenter research* or similar cooperation with the supervisors and both parties have only produced material to the research without a close scientific collaboration. If there are two or more of above-mentioned multicenter studies during three years, collaboration is considered as close and the expert is disqualified.
- The doctoral thesis expert who has participated in the same *multicenter research* with supervisor is disqualified if he/she or the supervisor is the first or last author in an article which has been published during the last three years and where both are co-authors.
- Working in the Current Care Guidelines or in the Nursing Guidelines working group with the supervisors does not make the reviewers or opponent disqualified.
- A descriptive (narrative) review article in a national journal or textbook co-authored with the supervisor does not disqualify a doctoral thesis expert.

2.2. Nomination of the pre-examiners (Application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis, parts A and B)

Pre-examination process of the doctoral thesis manuscript begins with filling application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis, parts A and B which together with their required appendices, which must be submitted to **the faculty’s Lead Specialist** (see <http://www.oulu.fi/university/faculty-study-affairs>).

The doctoral researcher fills out the information about the applicant and the thesis manuscript in **part A** of the **application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis** with required appendices:

- Doctoral thesis manuscript in PDF file including publications and abstract
- In the case of a compilation thesis, a report, approved and signed by the principal supervisor, on the candidate’s own contribution to publications with several co-authors. The report must describe, for each publication (or manuscript), the candidate’s input relating to the selection of the subject matter, the research questions, the research design and methods, data collection, analyses, the interpretation of the results, and the writing of the article itself.

And when the situation so requires also:

- Written consent from the primary author of the publication (if not the doctoral researcher) or from the shared first author to the use of the publication in a compilation thesis.
- An explanation concerning number of publications which deviate from standard number of the field.
- An explanation concerning the use of same publication in multiple theses.
- Any justified objections or dissenting opinions related to the nomination of the proposed experts.

In addition, only doctoral researchers from Health and Biosciences doctoral program:

- In case publication is a non-published manuscript, a written consent from all authors (except if there are tens of authors, written consent is required from three first and the last author)
- If a research article has already been used in another thesis, a written consent from the author of the thesis

The principal supervisor discusses the proposed reviewers with the doctoral researcher and the other supervisors. **The principal supervisor** will contact the proposed reviewers and opponent 1-3 months before submitting the final proposal. A template for the invitation of the reviewers is enclosed as Appendix 1 to these instructions.

The principal supervisor will make the proposal for the nomination of the reviewers by submitting **part B** with appendices:

- Brief CVs of the reviewers (max. 3 pages) highlighting the previous and current positions and affiliations (pdf or weblink)
- Full list of publications published during the past six years (pdf or weblink)

If necessary, the principal supervisor sends information concerning any agreements of joint supervision and the respective roles of the supervisors to the controller of the Faculty.

The Lead Specialist presents the full application to the chairperson of the Doctoral Training Committee, who makes the final decision with respect to granting the permission to submit the doctoral thesis to the appointed reviewers for pre-examination (KJ §16).

2.3 Pre-examination process

The Lead Specialist informs the candidate, the supervisors, university library and the responsible coordinator of the Graduate School, of the appointment of reviewers (A and B forms).

Principal supervisor sends the thesis, possible publications and the report on the candidate's own contribution to the appointed reviewers and the Lead Specialist within two weeks of nomination. The Lead Specialist will send all other documents (nomination decision, instructions and forms) to the reviewers.

The reviewers are expected to submit evaluation form and written, justified statements **within two (2) months** of having received the thesis manuscript. The evaluation form includes an assessment of the merits and shortcomings of the doctoral thesis along with the proposed grade for the thesis. The statements will include a recommendation to grant, or deny, permission to defend the thesis, and possible revisions to the thesis manuscript.

The Lead Specialist will send reviewers' statements to the doctoral researcher and the supervisors.

The doctoral researcher will have an opportunity to submit a response, or objection, to the reviewers' statements. The doctoral researcher will also have an opportunity to apply for a discontinuation of the examination process.

After pre-examination

The doctoral researcher revises the doctoral thesis manuscript based on the reviewers' statements:

- The doctoral researcher makes the requested revisions and a detailed written report on the revisions made.
- The principal supervisor checks the revisions, endorses them by signing the written report on the revisions, and submits it to the Lead Specialist.
- If a new review is required by the reviewers, the principal supervisor sends the corrected manuscript and the doctoral researcher's report to both reviewers.
- If a new review is not required, the Lead Specialist instructs to proceed with the submission of Part C of the application for permission to defend the doctoral thesis.

If the thesis will be published in Acta Universitatis Ouluensis series, the doctoral researcher fills [a publication agreement](#) and delivers it to the Lead Specialist.

3. The granting of permission to defend the doctoral thesis and the appointment of the opponent and custos

The principal supervisor fills **Part C** of the **application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis**, which includes the actual request for permission to defend the doctoral thesis and a proposal for the nomination of the opponent and the Custos. **The application and opponent's CV and a list of publications published during the past six years** (pdf or weblink) are submitted to the Lead Specialist. A template for the invitation of the opponent is enclosed as **Appendix 2** to these instructions.

The Custos is the official chairperson of, and oversees, the thesis defence. The Custos makes the necessary decisions related to the details of the event after having heard the interested parties.

The Doctoral Training Committee decides on the permission to defend the doctoral thesis based on the statements submitted by the reviewers and possible candidate's written report on the revisions ([see meeting dates](#)). **The chair of the Doctoral Training Committee appoints one or two opponents and the Custos** based on the proposal of the principal supervisor (KJ §16). However, if the proposal for the nomination of the opponent is delayed for some unforeseen reason, the granting of the permission to defend can still proceed. The appointment of the opponent and Custos, may then be carried out later (using the same form) by decision of the chair (KJ §16): it does not require a meeting and decision of the Doctoral Training Committee.

Specific requirements for opponents have been described in chapter 2.1. When proposing the Custos the following issues should also be taken into account:

- The custos must be at least a docent level supervisor of the thesis, the degree supervisor, or one of the faculty's professors. Usually the principal supervisor acts as a Custos.
- The Custos does not need to have an employment relationship with the University of Oulu but must be somehow connected to it (e.g. as a docent of the University of Oulu).

The doctoral researcher has a right to submit a written objection, or dissenting opinion, regarding the proposal for the nomination of the opponent and/or the Custos (the objection/dissenting opinion is to be included amongst the documents submitted with part C of the application for permission to defend a doctoral thesis).

The Lead Specialist notifies the doctoral researcher and the principal supervisor of the decision of the Doctoral Training Committee concerning the permission to defend the doctoral thesis and the appointment of the opponent and of the Custos. Lead Specialist sends the publication agreement to Acta, which has been prefilled by the candidate.

The Lead Specialist sends the decision to the appointed opponent(s) and Custos, and the information and instructions concerning the public defence, the evaluation criteria, and the submission of the final statement.

The doctoral researcher sends the doctoral thesis and possible articles to the opponent after receiving the permission to defend.

4. Publication of the doctoral thesis

The printing and publication of the doctoral thesis may be started once the Doctoral Training Committee has granted the permission to defend the doctoral thesis.

Most doctoral theses from the University of Oulu are published [in the Acta Universitatis Ouluensis series](#), but the thesis may also be published in another series of the University of Oulu, an academic series of a publisher, or as a single book that is not a part of any series. The doctoral researcher ensures that the doctoral thesis complies with the layout instructions of the selected publication series and the publication instructions have been taken into account. Additional information about publishing and printing can be asked from [Acta publication services](#) or from other series editors.

Furthermore, the printed doctoral thesis must be submitted to the opponent(s) and Custos around two weeks prior to the thesis defence. The doctoral researcher delivers thesis to these parties.

The printed thesis must be placed for public display **7 days** prior to the thesis defence. Thesis must be displayed in the Tree of Science of your own Doctoral programme (Fig. 2). The trees are in the front of Pegasus Library, Linnanmaa, door

B (Human Sciences, Technology and Natural Sciences, and Information technology and Electrical Engineering) and in Tellus, Kontinkangas, Aapistie 7A (Health and Biosciences). In addition to the Tree of Science, printed thesis can be publicly displayed according the customs of your own unit/faculty. **Doctoral researcher places the thesis** in the tree for public display at least 7 days before the defence. Doctoral researcher may pick up the thesis from the tree after the defence. The theses are removed from the trees twice a year during Christmas and summer season, after which the doctoral researcher cannot collect the displayed copy of thesis anymore.



Figure 2. Trees of Science. The thesis is placed in the tree by sliding the thread between the pages.

4.1 Theses published in the *Acta Universitatis Ouluensis* series

If the thesis is to be published in the [Acta Universitatis Ouluensis](#) series, the doctoral researcher must **submit the materials to the editor of the series at the latest 5 weeks prior to the thesis defence date.**

- Make a [publication agreement](#) and handle all the other tasks connected to the publication.
- In any issues pertaining to publications services, please contact acta.toimitus@oulu.fi.
- Write an abstract of the doctoral thesis in both Finnish and English.

In the case of theses published in the *Acta Universitatis Ouluensis* series, the University of Oulu will pay for the number of copies needed for mandatory distribution (15 copies) and 15 author's copies, a total of 30 copies. From three candidate's copies the printing house will make folders for the doctoral thesis defence, which will be paid for by the university. The doctoral researcher must pay for any additional copies, as well as for the costs of any special layout services, or colour pages.

The price of additional copies will be determined based on the number of pages. You can calculate a price estimate using [PunaMusta's](#) price calculator ([Layout services and price calculator](#)). For more information on the price of layout services and additional copies, please contact the printing house. If your unit or another party will pay for some of the additional copies, you should notify the invoicing department of PunaMusta in advance.

The attendant will notify the doctoral researcher by email when the copies can be collected at the main lobby of the Linnanmaa campus. Information about distributors and mandatory distribution (recipients and number of copies), please see below.

Mandatory distribution of doctoral theses in Acta series (recipients and number of copies):

1. Pegasus Library	3
2. Series editor	1
3. Faculty: noticeboard, archives	2
4. Display copy to the Tree of Science	1
5. Research unit, department, ... etc.	2
6. Legal deposit copies	6
Total 15 copies	

The attendants will distribute the copies for the recipients 1.–3. Doctoral researcher places a copy for public display in the Tree of Science (4.), and submits possible copies to research unit (5.) according to supervisor's instructions. The printing house will send legal deposit copies to the National Library (6.). In addition, the doctoral researcher receives 15 free copies, which include the folder copies of the thesis for the opponent, doctoral researcher and custos.

4.2 Theses published in other publication series of the University of Oulu

Doctoral researcher contacts in well advance the publishing series and agrees on delivering the material. If doctoral researcher wants to distribute the electronic version of the thesis through the university's open access publication repository Jultika, he/she has to contact Library Publishing Services at openpublishing@oulu.fi.

For doctoral dissertations published outside the series Acta Universitatis Ouluensis the University of Oulu covers the printing costs of the obligatory free distribution copies (14 copies) and 15 copies for the author's use (in total 29 copies). The compensation is based on the average price of publications in the Acta series, 5,50 € / publication (incl. VAT 24%). The maximum compensation is 159,50 €.

The compensation is paid upon submission of the invoice and receipt of the printing expenses by the doctoral researcher. The free-form compensation claim application must include the following details: the doctoral researcher's name, identity number, street address, postcode, post office, e-mail address and international bank account number (IBAN). If the compensation is paid to an account abroad, the name of the bank, the number and address of the branch and the bank's SWIFT/BIC code must be included. The original printing invoice and receipt must also be attached to the application. The application, together with all the attachments, is sent by e-mail to acta.toimitus@oulu.fi.

The cover of the publication must include *University of Oulu Graduate School*.

Distributors, mandatory recipients and number of copies of doctoral theses :

1. Pegasus Library (internal address: OYK/doctoral theses)	3
2. Faculty: noticeboard, archives	2
3. Display copy to Tree of Science	1
4. Research unit, department, ... etc.	2
5. Legal deposit copies	6
Total 14 copies	

The attendants will distribute the copies for the recipients 1.–2. Doctoral researcher places a copy for public display in the Tree of Science (3.), and submits possible copies to research unit (4.) according to supervisor's instructions. The printing house will send legal deposit copies to the National Library (5.). In addition, the doctoral researcher receives 15 free copies, which include the folder copies of the thesis for the opponent, doctoral researcher and custos. If the thesis is printed in a printing house outside of Finland, the legal deposit copies may be sent to the library of the University of Oulu, and the university library will handle the distribution of these copies.

4.3 Thesis published outside University series

Doctoral researcher may also publish his/her thesis as a self-published book. In this case, doctoral researcher takes care of editing and printing of the thesis and asks possible permissions to republish articles. It is also possible to publish thesis through e.g. commercial publisher or simply have a printout of thesis. Distribution of thesis follows the guidelines presented in chapter 4.2.

If doctoral researcher wants to distribute the electronic version of the thesis through the university's open access publication repository Jultika, he/she has to contact Library Publishing Services at openpublishing@oulu.fi. ISBN identifier can be applied, if needed, by following the instructions in page <https://libguides.oulu.fi/publishing/ISBN>.

4.4 Erratum – revisions to a printed doctoral thesis

The generally used practice in the case of revisions made after printing of the doctoral thesis, but before the thesis defence, is to prepare a separate appendix called an "Erratum". The Erratum will be enclosed as a separate page with the printed copies of the doctoral thesis. In the case of the Acta series, the Erratum is a separate PDF file with a link on the doctoral thesis' description page (see [example 1](#), [example 2](#)).

5. Communication about the doctoral thesis and the public defence

The doctoral researcher prepares a press release for publication in newspapers, written in plain, every-day language, and announcing the doctoral thesis and its public defence. The press release will also be published on the website of the University of Oulu. A link and instructions to creating the press release it is available on the UniOGS website [Forms and instructions library](#).

The press release must be a brief description of the doctoral research. The maximum length of the press release is one page. The press release must be submitted to the Communication Services of the University of Oulu **at the latest fourteen (14) days prior to the doctoral thesis defence date**. A photo of the doctoral researcher is also recommended to be enclosed.

6. Doctoral thesis defence – regulations and guidelines

A doctoral thesis must always be defended in public (Government Decree on University Degrees; 22§). There are three main goals for a public doctoral thesis defence:

- To publicly and as reliably as possible verify that the doctoral researcher has personally written a thesis whose academic value corresponds to the general requirements for doctoral theses.
- To offer the official opponent and any other people interested in the subject matter the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the contents of the doctoral thesis by listening to the author, offering the author their observations, asking questions from the author and discussing the thesis with the author
- To have publicity to research results

The doctoral thesis defence should be an event where two (or three) academics, who are experts in their field, discuss the subject matter of the doctoral thesis. An enlightened layman should be able to follow the main themes of the discussion and understand the subject matter.

The discussion at the doctoral thesis defence influence the approval and grade of the thesis. The thesis defence is a way to study how well the author is able to justify his/her choices and views and analyse the links between the research presented in the thesis and the discipline in general.

Language of the doctoral thesis defence

The custos will determine the language to be used at the thesis defence after having discussed the issue with the doctoral researcher and the opponent. The language must be Finnish, Swedish, or the language in which the doctoral thesis was written. The doctoral thesis defence may also be held in a language other than these, provided that the doctoral researcher agrees to this. Based on a separate agreement, the opponent and the doctoral researcher may also use different languages at the thesis defence. If the doctoral candidate's native language is Finnish, the *lectio praecursoria* is usually given in Finnish, even if the language of the doctoral thesis defence is not Finnish. In other cases, the presentation is given in the language to be used with the opponent during the doctoral thesis defence.

More detailed instructions of the defence can be found at [Graduate School webpages](#).

7. Grading of the doctoral thesis

The opponent prepares a written statement using the Graduate School's evaluation criteria at the latest within a week of the doctoral thesis defence.

- The principal supervisor/custos are recommended to instruct the opponent to write a preliminary statement already before the thesis defence. Further details regarding the thesis defence itself can be added to the statement later.
- The opponent also fills in a form assessing the doctoral thesis and the thesis defence and recommending a grade to be given for the thesis by the Doctoral Training Committee.
- The opponent submits his/her statement and the proposed grade to the Lead Specialist who will forward them to the supervisor and the doctoral researcher.
- Before the grade is actually given by the Doctoral Training Committee, the doctoral researcher will be given the opportunity to submit a response, with any justified objections, to the opponent's statement.

The Lead Specialist will present the opponent's statement and proposed grading for discussion at a meeting of the Doctoral Training Committee.

The Doctoral Training Committee grades the doctoral thesis:

- Based on the opponent's and pre-examiners statements.
- When grading the thesis, the Doctoral Training Committee may also use the transcripts of statements made by extra opponents at the doctoral thesis defence, and any other expert statements that may have been requested (KJ §16). The Doctoral Training Committee must also take into account the statements by the reviewers during the pre-examination of the doctoral thesis.
- The grades that can be awarded to the doctoral thesis are "Fail", "Pass", and "Excellent".
- The grade "Excellent" is reserved for doctoral theses of an exceptionally high standard and is given to only about 15% of all the doctoral theses approved by the Doctoral Training Committee:
 - The doctoral thesis must have exceptional academic merits
 - Findings and conclusions of the thesis are essentially new
 - The results must be of exceptional significance for the field of study,
 - Articles of the dissertation (in the case of a compilation thesis) must be published in high-quality peer reviewed journals
 - The public defence of the doctoral thesis must have been excellent.
- Furthermore, in order to receive the grade "Excellent", it must be recommended by at least two of the individuals appointed as the doctoral thesis experts, of which one must be the opponent.

The Lead Specialist will notify the doctoral researcher and the principal supervisor of the decision.

The doctoral researcher may submit a request for amendment to the Board of Examiners within 14 days of having been notified of the grade.

8. Graduating and delivery of the degree certificate

The doctoral researcher may apply the doctoral diploma once all of the courses included in the degree have been completed and entered into the official study record, and the doctoral thesis has been approved and graded. The diploma is applied by filling the applicable parts of the "diploma request" in OSAT-system (https://osat.oulu.fi/index.php?lang=en_US) and attaches accepted PSP to application or by contacting the Lead Specialist. In order to receive the diploma, the doctoral researcher must be enrolled as a "present" at the university for the semester. The Dean of the Graduate School grants the doctoral degree and signs the diploma.

The diploma can be collected from the faculty's service point or it can also be sent by mail on request.

APPENDIX 1: Reviewer invitation template

SUBJECT: doctoral thesis review request from University of Oulu

Dear Prof. NN,

I would like to invite you to serve as an external reviewer for M.Sc. NN's doctoral thesis tentatively entitled as "WORKING TITLE HEREIN". The thesis has been co-supervised by myself and Dr. NN and is based on the X original publications listed below (and some as yet unpublished content in the form of a manuscript). A draft of the thesis abstract can be found below.

The thesis will be finalized within a couple of weeks and will then be submitted for review. We would need to get the reviewer's evaluations and statements within two months from the date of submission.

As a reviewer your task would be to evaluate the suitability of the manuscript to be a doctoral thesis. In other words, the external reviewer is expected to give constructive criticism on the thesis and recommend if it is good enough to be defended in public - possibly after some revisions. The official guidelines are available here:

https://www.oulu.fi/sites/default/files/content/Guidelines%20for%20thesis%20pre-examiners%20and%20opponents_rev202010.pdf.

I would be truly grateful if you could review the thesis. If you are able to accept this invitation, you would receive a small honorarium upon completion of the task.

I would greatly appreciate timely feedback with respect to your availability, and I would be happy to provide any further information you may need before giving a definitive response.

Best regards,

NN, Principal Supervisor

LIST OF ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS

WORKING ABSTRACT

APPENDIX 2: Opponent invitation template

SUBJECT: invitation to serve as an opponent at University of Oulu

Dear Prof. NN,

I would like to invite you to serve as the opponent (oral examiner) for NN's doctoral thesis entitled as "TITLE HERE". The thesis has been co-supervised by myself and Dr. NN.

The manuscript, which is now in external review is attached to this message. There may be some revisions based on the on-going external review and probably some language corrections that need to be made before final printing. The abstract and an updated list of original papers to be included in the the thesis can also be found below.

The official guidelines for the opponents are available at https://www.oulu.fi/sites/default/files/content/Guidelines%20for%20thesis%20pre-examiners%20and%20opponents_rev202010.pdf

The opponent examines the doctoral researcher, in public, about the thesis research and also its relation to the wider context of the research field. One of the important tasks of the opponent(s) is to evaluate and propose a grade for the final version of the thesis.

I would be truly honoured and grateful if you could accept to undertake this task. If you are able to accept this invitation, we would cover your travel and accommodation expenses and provide a small honorarium. The defense is currently planned to take place during the first/second half of MONTH, or if that does not work out, then preferably during

If you need any further information before making a firm decision, or if you have any preferences/limitations with respect to the schedule, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

NN, Principal Supervisor

ABSTRACT

LIST OF ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS