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## **Guidelines regarding dissertation for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Human Sciences**

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**Summary:** Guidelines regarding the public defence of doctoral theses at the Faculty of Human Sciences

**Previous versions:** MIUN 2005/572, 2005-11-29

Governing document  
2024-06-04  
Diarienummer: MIUN 2024/1443

# Table of Contents

<b>Guidelines regarding dissertation for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Human Sciences .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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## **Guidelines regarding dissertation for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Human Sciences**

Guidelines regarding defense for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Human Sciences adopted by the Research Education Council on 2005-10-04 and approved by the Faculty Board 2005-11-29. Revision according to the Higher Education Regulation is approved by the Faculty Board on 2024-06-04.

The Higher Education Regulation (§ 34 Regulation 2010:1064) stipulates that the doctoral student must defend the thesis orally at a public defense. The formal requirements include that the respondent, the opponent, the chairman of the defense and all members of the assessment board must be present throughout the defense, preferably physically but in special circumstances also via digital media.

According to HF § 34 (Regulation 2010:1064) at least one person must participate who is not active at the university where the doctoral student is being examined.

The fact that the defense is public means that audience members both inside and outside the university have the right to be present and to ask questions of the respondent.

A defense normally covers approximately two hours according to the following structure:

- The chairman welcomes everyone. The thesis title is indicated, after which the chairman introduces the respondent, the opponent, and the members of the examination board. A brief description of how the dissertation will be conducted is provided, including information that the audience will be given the opportunity to ask questions to the respondent after the opponent and the examination board have completed their examination.
- The chairman gives the floor to the respondent who is given the opportunity to add any corrections, orally or in writing.

- The chairman then gives the floor to the opponent, who summarizes the thesis and places it in a larger context.
- The opponent then examines the thesis itself, which should essentially be a dialogue between the opponent and the respondent. The review should end with a summary judgment from the opponent.
- The chairman thanks the opponent and gives the examination board and then the audience the opportunity to ask questions to the respondent.
- When no more questions are asked, the chairman declares the defense completed and announces that the examination board will meet immediately.
- The examination board convenes and announces the decision (pass or fail) as soon as its meeting has ended.