

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINERS OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINERS

The purpose of the examination is to ensure that the doctoral dissertation meets the set scientific and formal requirements before permission to defend the thesis is granted to the doctoral candidate. The examiners are entitled to propose changes to the dissertation or even its rejection. Therefore, it is very important that the examination is performed carefully and that the Faculty will obtain explicit and unambiguous statements from the examiners.

The dissertation manuscript must be based on original scientific research. It may be a monograph or it may be based on a collection of related original publications of the candidate. The ultimate purpose of the examination is to make sure that the amount and quality of the research and the contribution of the candidate fulfill the requirements for a doctoral degree. **The Faculty expects that at least the following aspects of the dissertation are evaluated in a written statement by the examiner. The form of the statement is free.**

### 1. General impression of the doctoral dissertation

- brief overview of the scientific content and quality of the dissertation
- clarity of presentation

### 2. Topic and aims

- originality, timeliness and scientific relevance of the topic
- literature review of the same topic
- added value of the new data to existing knowledge

### 3. Materials and methods

- the candidate's original contribution to the collection of materials/study subjects and to the generation of results
- quality, quantity and suitability of the materials/study subjects
- complexity of the methodology
- development of any new methodology

### 4. Results and conclusions

- reliability and scientific significance of the new findings
- extent of reproduction or confirmation of earlier observations
- appropriateness of the analyses
- justification of the conclusions drawn from the original observations

### 5. Organization and presentation of dissertation

- organization of the dissertation and balance between the different parts
- quality of scientific style, presentation, language and graphics.

## 6. Literature review

- scope and factual content of the literature review
- candidate's familiarity and critical mastery of the current literature
- adequacy and appropriateness of references

## 7. Maturity of discussion section of thesis

- relevance, factual accuracy, critical mastery and clarity of discussion section of thesis
- relationship between candidate's own results and existing information; evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of both
- formulation of synthesis of the entire dissertation project
- maturity of the candidate as a scientist

## 8. Summary

- brief description on the nature of the research
  - description of candidate's own contribution
  - most significant results and merits of the dissertation
  - quality of the thesis manuscript
  - major defects, if any, and measures taken to correct them
  - **the pre-examiner needs to state whether he/she recommends a permit for public examination. Conditional statements should not be given.**