

COMPLETING A DOCTORAL THESIS AT TSE

- The doctoral thesis shall demonstrate the candidate's deep understanding of the research topic and their ability to produce new scientific knowledge independently.
- It is completed under the guidance of one or more supervisors, possibly representing different disciplines. One supervisor is normally a professor in the candidate's major discipline.
- A doctoral thesis may be a monograph or a compilation thesis.

A compilation thesis

- A compilation thesis comprises a set of interrelated *studies* preceded by a *synthesis*. It must deal with one coherent scientific problem or a set of interrelated problems.
- The *synthesis*, written by the doctoral candidate, motivates the thesis and positions it in a particular research area, formulates the research problem and objectives both of the thesis as a whole and of the interrelated studies, specifies the role of the individual studies in the thesis, justifies the data and methods employed, and outlines the results and contribution of the studies and the thesis as a whole.
- A *study* may be a published scientific article, an article manuscript approved for publication, a chapter in a book or conference volume, a publication in, for example, a series of a university or research institute, or an unpublished article manuscript intended for publication. Parts of a previously published doctoral thesis cannot be included in another thesis by the same author. Three to five studies are typical in a compilation thesis, the number being less significant than the scientific contribution made by the thesis as a whole.
- Joint research results can be included in a compilation thesis if the candidate has contributed independently to their production. The candidate's role in the research must be demonstrated in a written statement signed by the co-author(s). The statement shall be addressed to the Steering Committee of the Doctoral Programme of Turku School of Economics on requesting the assignment of preliminary examiners, to whom it will then be forwarded. A doctoral thesis is evaluated as the candidate's individual accomplishment and, hence, the candidate's own overall accomplishment must meet the requirements set for a doctoral thesis.
- The candidate must obtain written permission from the respective publishers in order to print published articles in a doctoral thesis.

THE GRADE

Grading reflects the scientific contribution of the doctoral thesis, which usually corresponds to its potential to result in journal publications and consequent citations. The grade relates to the thesis as a whole, not some of its parts (e.g. published articles). If parts of a compilation thesis are co-authored, grading shall relate to the candidate's individual contribution. The grade for the thesis will be proposed employing the scale described below:

Laudatur, "Outstanding"

The thesis makes an *exceptional contribution* to the knowledge in its field. It will most likely result or has already resulted in articles being published in major refereed scientific journals. Major denotes a highly respected journal that is not, however, necessarily among the top 10 or so, due to variations in ranking procedures between different fields. The results of the thesis will likely be widely cited in the scientific literature.

Eximia cum laude approbatur, "Excellent"

The thesis makes a *very significant contribution* to the knowledge in its field. It contains innovative and creative ideas, and has great potential to result or has already resulted in one or more articles being published in major refereed scientific journals. The thesis is expected to be cited, possibly widely so, in the scientific literature.

Magna cum laude approbatur, "Very Good"

The thesis makes a *significant contribution* to the knowledge in its field. It might result or has already resulted in one or more articles being published in refereed scientific journals, possibly in those that are major. The thesis is expected to be cited in the scientific literature.

Cum laude approbatur, "Good"

The thesis makes a *rather significant contribution* to the knowledge in its field. The research results might be publishable or already published in refereed scientific journals. The thesis has some potential to be cited in the scientific literature.

Non sine laude approbatur, "Fair"

The scientific contribution of the thesis to the knowledge in its field bears *some significance*. The thesis demonstrates the author's ability to produce new scientific results. However, the ideas might not have fully matured. Further work may result in articles published in refereed scientific journals.

Lubenter approbatur, "Poor"

The thesis fulfils the scientific criteria set for a doctoral thesis; however, its *scientific contribution in its field is very limited*. Publishing the research results in a refereed scientific journal will require a substantial amount of work.

Approbatur, "Pass"

The thesis fulfils the minimum standards of acceptance and is highly unlikely to result in articles being published in refereed scientific journals.

Improbatur, "Fail"