

Public Thesis Defense Proceedings at the Faculty of Law

Organization

- The date of the thesis defense may only be scheduled after the jury has been appointed by the Council of Professors and after all signed thesis defense approval forms have been received from the jury members.
- In consultation with the candidate and the members of the jury, the thesis supervisor submits proposed dates to the Dean's Office.
- The Chair of the Jury (representing the Dean's Office) formally sets the official date.
- All members of the jury must be present, at least via videoconference, for the defense to take place.
- The defense is public and open to all.

Proceedings

- **Before the Session**

45 minutes before the defense: The Chair of the Jury ensures that the room is ready (table arrangement, computer equipment, projector functionality, etc.).

30 minutes before the defense: The Chair of the Jury meets with the jury members to review the procedure and determine the order and duration of the interventions.

Seating arrangement: The candidate is seated to the left of the jury. Jury members sit side by side, with the Chair occupying the central position.

- **Opening of the Session**

Greetings and welcome to the candidate, the audience, the thesis supervisor(s), and the other members of the jury.

- **General Introduction**

Brief presentation of the proceedings.

- **Introduction of the Candidate**

Introduction of the candidate and overview of their academic and professional journey.

- **Candidate's Presentation**

Duration: approximately **30 minutes**

- **Scientific Discussion**

Reports and questions from the jury members (approximately **30 minutes per member**). The usual order of interventions is as follows: internal reviewer(s), external reviewer(s), followed by the thesis supervisor(s) or co-supervisor(s). Each intervention includes an overall assessment of the thesis (authenticity, structure, quality, contribution, and originality); any critical remarks; questions intended to assess the candidate's mastery of the subject and to provide an opportunity to respond to the comments raised.

- **Questions from the Audience**

The audience is then invited to ask questions in a limited and moderated format.

- **Jury Deliberation**

The jury leaves the room to deliberate.

The deliberations concern the acceptance of the thesis (unconditional acceptance or conditional acceptance subject to revisions) and the possible awarding of a distinction. The thesis supervisor speaks first, followed by the other jury members.

- **Announcement of the Result**

The jury returns to the room, and the Chair announces the decision (acceptance and any distinction awarded).

- **Presentation of Documents**

The following documents are presented to the candidate: Certificate of completion of the doctoral thesis; certificate indicating the distinction awarded (where applicable), signed imprimatur, thesis evaluation reports.

- **Reception**

A reception is optional and is organized and offered by the candidate

After the defense

The Chair prepares and submits the final report to the Secretariat of the Faculty of Law.

Additional Information

For any details regarding the thesis colloquium or the scientific proceedings of the defense (presentation structure, types of questions, etc.), candidates are invited to contact their thesis supervisor(s) directly, as certain aspects may vary between institutes or research groups.

For general regulations, please refer to the [Faculty of Law Study and Examination Regulations](#).