

Thesis Defense and Public Presentation Proceedings at the Faculty of Sciences

1. Private Thesis Defense

Organization

- The date of the defense is determined by mutual agreement between the candidate and the thesis supervisor(s), in consultation with the members of the thesis jury.
- The proposed date is submitted to the Dean's Office together with the request for approval of the thesis jury composition using the designated [form](#).
- The jury members are officially invited by the Faculty Secretariat at least **three weeks** before the defense.

Proceedings

- **Before the Session**

The defense takes place in the presence of the candidate, the thesis supervisor(s), and at least three members of the thesis jury (including at least one external member). In certain exceptional circumstances and upon request, the Dean may authorize external experts to participate remotely by videoconference.

The session is chaired either by the thesis supervisor(s) or by an internal jury member.

- **Opening of the Session**

The thesis supervisor(s) welcome the candidate and the jury members to the room.

- **General Introduction**

The thesis supervisor(s) explain the proceedings of the session

- **Candidate's Presentation**

Duration : about **45 minutes**.

- **Jury Questions**

Questions and discussion with the jury (approximately **20 to 30 minutes per member**).

- **Jury Deliberations**

The candidate leaves the room. The committee deliberates in closed session and prepares a report signed by each of its members. The committee also decides whether to nominate the candidate for the Dupasquier-Perrier's Prize.

- **Announcement of the Result**

The candidate is invited back into the room.

The thesis supervisor(s) communicate the committee's decision regarding the outcome of the defense

Where applicable, any corrections required to the thesis manuscript and the deadline for completing them are also communicated.

- **Meal with the jury**

Following the defense, the candidate and the committee members are invited to a meal offered by the relevant institute.

- **Follow-up to the Private Defense**

Following the defense, the thesis supervisor(s) promptly submit to the Dean the reports of the committee members together with a defense report.

This document includes an assessment of both the thesis and the candidate's defense performance. It must be approved and signed by all committee members.

If external members participate remotely by videoconference, their approval is provided by email to the Dean.

- **Possible Outcomes of the Committee Evaluation**

a) The defense is deemed successful.

The committee may nevertheless require minor corrections to the manuscript. In this case, the final version of the thesis must be submitted to the thesis supervisor(s) within a maximum period of **one month** following the defense.

b) The defense is not considered fully satisfactory and requires major revisions.

The thesis supervisor(s) inform the candidate of the modifications required by the committee and the deadline for completing them. A second defense must be organized within one year of the first defense. The candidate may request the appointment of a new thesis committee.

If, following the second defense, the committee considers that the thesis still does not meet the required standards, the candidate is declared to have definitively failed and is withdrawn from the doctoral programme.

2. Public Thesis Defense

Organization

- The proposed date, agreed upon by the thesis supervisor(s), the candidate, and the committee members, is communicated to the Faculty Secretariat. The final date is then set by the Dean.
- The public presentation must take place after the submission of the defense report and no earlier than **two weeks** and no later than **six months** after the date of the private defense.
- The defense is public and open to everyone.
- On the day of the public presentation, the presence of a representative of the Faculty Dean's Office and the thesis supervisor(s) is mandatory. The presence of the other jury members is optional.
- The presentation traditionally takes place in **Lecture Hall F_100** ou F-200 of the Faculty of Science.

Proceedings

- **General Introduction**

The representative of the Dean's Office or the thesis supervisor(s) explains the proceedings of the session.

- **Introduction of the Candidate**

The representative of the Dean's Office presents the candidate, their academic and professional background, and provides a summary of the private defense report.

- **Candidate's Presentation**

Duration: **45 minutes**.

The presentation should be delivered in French whenever possible, although English is also permitted.

- **Additional Testimonials**

Depending on the practices of the relevant institute, the thesis supervisor(s) and individuals close to the candidate may share testimonials, and highlight important milestones in the candidate's academic and personal journey.

- **Official Conferral of the Degree**

At the conclusion of the presentation, the representative of the Dean's Office officially announces the awarding of the doctoral degree.

- **Reception**

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

Additional Information

For any details regarding the thesis defense or the scientific proceedings of the public presentation (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 the general regulations, please refer to [Doctoral regulations FS](#)