

The defence and the official opponents' report (the Ministerial Order on the higher doctoral degree)

16.-(1) When a dissertation is accepted for defence, the author must ensure that copies of it are obtainable. It must be available no later than four weeks before the defence, as decided by the institution.

17.-(1) The defence is public and conducted by the chairman of the responsible collegiate body or another member of the academic staff appointed by the chairman. The institution must ensure that the defence can subsequently be documented sufficiently.

(2) The defence must be conducted in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish, unless the institution grants permission to use another language.

(3) Not later than four weeks before the defence, the institution must announce the time and place for the defence, and state where the dissertation may be obtained as well as detailed rules on the defence, including information about registering as an unofficial opponent.

18.-(1) Two of the members of the assessment committee will be appointed as official opponents. In special circumstances, other experts may be appointed as official opponents.

(2) Any unofficial opponents must register with the chair of the defence before its start. However, the chair may allow contributions from opponents who registered at a later time, giving priority to those who registered earlier.

19.-(1) The doctoral candidate must be given the opportunity to start the defence with a lecture of up to 30 minutes, comprising a review of the dissertation's subject and the research results that have been submitted for assessment.

(2) Each official opponent will normally be allotted a maximum of 1½ hours and each unofficial opponent a maximum of 45 minutes. This time includes the time that the candidate will need for response. The time allotted to opponents may be reduced or increased according to circumstances. The entire defence must not exceed six hours, including any breaks.

20.-(1) As soon as possible after the defence, the official opponents must submit a report stating whether they consider the defence satisfactory, see, however (2). If one or both opponents do not consider the defence satisfactory, this must be substantiated in the report.

(2) If the defence has caused one or both opponents to doubt whether a positive report can be submitted, they may recommend to the responsible collegiate body that the institution obtain written comments, including, according to circumstances, comments from unofficial opponents to clarify the issue in doubt. The institution must allow the doctoral candidate to comment on statements made by others before the material is sent to the opponents for the completion of their report.

(3) If a report contains insufficient guidance or material defects, the report will be returned to the opponents for revision or correction of formal errors. When the final report becomes available, it must be sent to the doctoral candidate. Unless both opponents have found the defence satisfactory, the doctoral candidate must be given the opportunity to submit comments for the report within a deadline of at least 14 days. The comments are submitted to the opponents for comment and possibly revision of the recommendation. The doctoral candidate is notified of the opponents' reaction.