



Guidelines for examining committee for licentiate seminars

The thesis may be the result of teamwork, but the personal, independent contribution of the doctoral student must be clearly distinguishable. The thesis may be a monograph or consist of several papers. Each included paper must be published or deemed publishable in a peer-reviewed journal. The external reviewer and examining committee are to set forth the material failings and merits of the thesis at the defence. The following questions should be posed:

1. Choice of subjects and problems addressed

- Is the subject chosen original? Why has it not been previously addressed (e.g. a new idea, necessary conditions were lacking in the past, the author of the thesis had access to unique material or an original technique, etc.)?
- If the subject has been addressed earlier, why did the author take it up again? Is there reason to suppose that previous results no longer hold because of developments in the area; do new methods allow a deeper analysis of the issues?

2. Literature

- Is the selection of references adequate and do the works referred to give a correct picture of the state of research in the field?
- Does the thesis contain a critical analysis of the referenced works?

3. Material

- Is the material studied appropriately chosen and sufficient in scope?

4. Investigative and processing methods

- Are the methods conventional, original, diverse, thoroughly checked for possible sources of error, and well suited to the issue addressed?

5. Findings and conclusions

- Are the results obtained of scientific interest and do they have any novelty?
- Are the author's conclusions logical and neither excessive nor inadequate given the findings and material?
- Does the author demonstrate academic stringency in the summarising discussion?

6. Formal presentation

- Is the thesis well organised?
- Is the linguistic expression appropriate and of acceptable quality?

- Are the experiments, analyses and results clearly and comprehensibly presented?
- Are the tables and figures well organised and explained?

7. General summary

- Does the author's contribution meet reasonable expectations of a 2-year licentiate education in terms of scope and quality?
- If teamwork is involved, is it possible to distinguish the author's own contribution?
- What criticisms can be made of the thesis?
- What are the principal merits of the thesis (originality, scientific imagination, innovative methodology, novel findings, etc.)?