Public Defences in Relation to Coronavirus

Which Ones May Participate via Link at Public Defences?

The faculty’s approach is to be open to conducting a public defence and a licentiate seminar with the support of digital tools.

An estimate of what is appropriate should be made on a case to case basis. In certain cases the most appropriate solution might be to postpone the public defence for a later occasion. If the department, in dialogue with the PhD student, supervisor, professor responsible for research studies and head of department, finds that the most appropriate solution is to go through with the planned defence with the support of digital tools, the section dean can request the participation of the opponent, members of the examination committee and/or respondent via link at the defence. The request is sent to Susanne Paul (susanne.paul@uadm.uu.se).

The recommendation is that the appointed chairperson is physically present in the room planned for the defence.

The requirement is that image and sound quality is good throughout the defence. If that is not the case, the defence has to be interrupted for troubleshooting. If the technology fails, the defence has to be postponed to another occasion.

It is very important to, well in advance of the defence, prepare and test the technology to avoid technical problems at the defence.

Change of Faculty Opponent, Member of the Examination Committee or Chairperson at the Defence

Section dean decides on any change of faculty opponent, member or chairperson. Please use a simplified form for this, which is available on the faculty’s web site for postgraduate education: https://teknat.uu.se/utbildning/forskniva/blanketter/.

How Do We Meet the Public Defence Requirement?

The university has not closed university premises so the defences are still public. For those who can’t or shouldn’t be physically present, enabling participation via link may be relevant.

Be careful to contact thesis production if change of premises for the defence is made so correct information on premises is available digitally. If there is time, thesis production also takes care of late changes before printing.

May Digital Signature Be Used at the Defence?

Digital signatures (e.g. Adobe) may be used for examination committee protocols. It might be that some members do not have access or experience to use digital signature though. There will thus be defences in which protocols are signed by hand and digitally or a combination of both.

Which Order Should Apply to Signature?
At the defence there will in certain cases be persons both in place and remotely (or just remotely) that shall sign and there is some time pressure to take into account, therefore there is some flexibility in the signing scheme. The important is that all signatures are “genuine” and that every person afterwards may confirm that they were behind the decision if it was supposedly questioned.

The updated examination committee protocol is now bilingual and is available on the faculty’s web site for postgraduate studies: https://teknat.uu.se/utbildning/forskarniva/blanketter/.


**What Happens if the University Closes Down its Premises?**

We are currently looking at the issue and whether participation via link can meet public defence requirements.