

## **PhD Defence - Requirements and Time Plan**

Purpose of the defence is to prove PhD candidate's ability to participate in academic discussion with research colleagues. It also confirms that the PhD thesis is candidate's own work and that she/he understands it. PhD defence is an independent assessment of quality of the PhD thesis. Defence committee members are expected to ask questions, clarify points made in the PhD thesis and express criticism. Defence of the PhD thesis is a public event and should not take more than two hours.

Time plan for PhD defence:

1. Chairperson opens the PhD defence, welcomes those present and briefly introduces reviewers and members of examining committee (approx. 5 min).
2. Supervisor introduces PhD candidate (approx. 10 min).
3. PhD candidate gives a presentation in which she/he sums up pivotal results of her/his work (up to 30 min).
4. First reviewer conducts an academic dispute with the candidate. The dispute should clarify candidate's ability to explain and critically assess her/his work, knowledge of the discipline and independent thinking. Reviewer ends the dispute with a summarizing judgement of the PhD thesis (approx. 30 min).
5. Second reviewer conducts an academic dispute with the candidate (approx. 30 min).
6. The rest of committee members examine candidate to clarify matters that left uncovered by the reviewers or not covered in sufficient depth according to their opinion.
7. Anyone from audience can comment and put questions.
8. Chairperson ends the public defence.
9. Committee members make a decision about awarding PhD degree to the candidate by secret majority voting and draw up a defence record.