

Oral exam at TIK - guidance

Intention:

The oral hearing is meant to be a constructive conversation with the student about the thesis and the process behind it (like a PhD defense) and to give the candidate a good understanding and acceptance of strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, and therefore also about the final grade. No presentation of the thesis is expected from the candidate at the oral hearing. Part of the intention is also to ensure that it is actually the student who has written the thesis.

Planning:

The internal and external censors agree upon two encounters;

1. A short meeting between the two of you for synchronizing a tentative grade and for landing a division of labor between the two of you in the oral hearing (typically 30-45 min). If you should have difficulties in agreeing upon a grade; it is normally the external censor who has the last word.
2. The actual oral hearing (45 minutes)

It can be good to have some buffer time between the two encounters. After having agreed upon the time slots please inform the study consultant at TIK (Petter) as soon as possible so he can inform the student.

Accomplishment / format:

The oral exam normally takes place physically at TIK, but if the external censor is located outside of Oslo the external censor can participate digitally. The oral hearing takes about 45 minutes and goes like this:

- Welcome by the internal censor / short introductions of all three.
- The internal censor presents the intention behind and format for the oral hearing to ensure that all participants know why and how the oral hearing takes place.
- 20-30 minutes discussion about the thesis with the candidate based on questions/ comments from the two censors.
- The candidate leaves the room for about 5 minutes where the two of you (i.e. the internal and the external censor) land the final grade. (Normally the final grade is equal to the tentative grade after reading, but in instances where you are in doubt between two grades after reading then the oral hearing could help you land a final grade).
- The candidate is called back to the room and receives the final grade, followed by a short round of summing up, maybe ask about future plans, congratulations etc. before ending the hearing.
- The internal censor makes sure that both censors fill out and sign the protocol, before the internal censor sends this to the study consultant at TIK.
- The internal censor is also responsible for providing a short written text (max ½ page) that sums up strengths and weaknesses of the thesis and send this to the study consultant at TIK. This text may follow the censor guide or not, depending on the actual feedback and the comments from the censors.