

DECISION

Reg. No.
U 2022/183

Date 2022-03-16

Research Programmes Board
Administrative Coordinator

Rules for public defences at LTH

This decision replaces Reg. No. U 2021/664. With reservation for possible errors in translation. Please see original Swedish text for reference.

Background

In addition to the Higher Education Ordinance, public defences at LTH are regulated in Guidelines regarding third cycle studies at the Faculty of Engineering, LTH, Lund University's regulations on digital elements in public defences in third cycle studies, Regulations for third cycle studies at Lund University, Guidelines on the composition of examination committees including situations of conflict of interest and attached Rules for public defences at LTH, approved by LTH's Research Programmes Board 2022-03-01.

Introduction

The doctoral degree is the highest academic degree and requires an approved doctoral thesis.

The doctoral thesis must be defended orally in a public defence to be chaired by a chairperson. An opponent's task is to specifically review and oppose the doctoral thesis, after which an examination committee consisting of at least three people must grade the doctoral thesis with a grade of pass or fail. The audience at the public defence has the right to ask questions to the doctoral candidate in the order decided by the chairperson.

The starting point is that public defences at Lund University must take place at a location in a room provided by the university where all participants are located. Digital elements in public defences can occur if there are reasons for it.

Digital elements in public defence can also refer to real-time streaming. That is, sound and moving images that are transmitted in real time over the Internet and that are not recorded and saved.

Decision

The Research Programmes Board, LTH decides on the following:

- The public defence must be open and public. This requirement is met if the public defence is arranged in a room where the public can attend and has the opportunity to ask questions and where appropriate technology is provided.
- Decisions on digital elements in the public defence must be made after consultation with the doctoral student and supervisor. The doctoral student must be aware of the digital elements that will be used during the public defence. The doctoral student's wishes regarding whether the opponent can participate digitally or not must be considered.
- When announcing the public defence, the following information must be included: the location of the specified room, which digital elements may be used, if the public defence is to be streamed in real time and in that case which part of the room is exempted from real-time streaming. A link to the public defence can be provided to the public for information about the possibility of taking part in the public defence digitally. This opportunity does not guarantee digital participants the opportunity to ask questions.
- The doctoral candidate, the appointed chairperson of the public defence, at least one of the supervisors and at least two members of the examination committee must be physically present, unless there are special reasons. The chairperson of the examination

committee must be one of the two members who participate on site.

- The opponent is expected to be on site but may participate digitally.
- Deputies must be nearby so that they can participate physically in the public defence room at short notice. There is no obstacle to appointing more deputies.
- One of the members of the examination committee can act as an opponent if necessary, following a decision by the chairperson of the public defence. A member who replaces the opponent resigns from their role on the examination committee.
- If certain members of the examination committee participate digitally, a separate digital meeting must be arranged for the examination committee's meeting. A link to such a meeting shall be made available only to the members of the examination committee and to the opponent and supervisor as they shall be available for questions from the examination committee and participate in the deliberations but not the decision.
- It must be possible for the opponent, examination committee members, deputies, and the audience to be able to follow the entire open part of the public defence.
- The chairperson of the public defence must be available for direct telephone contact with the opponent and examination committee members who participate digitally so that any technical problems can be handled.
- The chairperson of the public defence must be available at the examination committee's meeting to, if necessary, inform about local conditions, coordination, the university's regulations, and Swedish legislation.
- The examination committee has a quorum when all members are present, digitally, or physically. As the committee's decision, the opinion that most members agree on must apply. An individual committee member has the right to have a dissenting opinion noted. The doctoral thesis must be assessed with one of the grades passed or failed. If the doctoral thesis is judged to have

failed, this must be explained in writing. The chairperson of the examination committee signs the examination committee protocol. The protocol is then sent to "Disputation" HS 55 or emailed to Forskarutbildning@lth.lu.se.

- Decisions on digital elements in the public defence must be made by the Faculty Board after an overall assessment in each individual case. The decision-making power can be delegated to the dean, or the person appointed by the dean, but not further.
- Information about booking and registering for a public defence is available on the Doctoral Student Web LTH.

Decisions in this matter have been made by the signed chairperson of the Research Programmes Board at LTH after a presentation by the administrative coordinator, Andrea Nord.