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Preparations for the public defense



Request for permission for public defense

The request for permission to publicly defend a dissertation should be submitted within 60 days after receiving two approving statements on the manuscript. Before requesting permission for public defence, the doctoral researcher must make the dissertation ready for printing and all courses within the doctoral studies must be completed

Choose the type of public defense

Everyone on campus

Respondent, opponent, custos and the examination board, as well as the audience, all participate in the same auditorium/room on the ÅAU campus.

Hybrid

One or more of the respondent, custos, opponent, examination board members or the audience participate online, and one or more participate in the same auditorium/room on the ÅAU campus.

Everyone online

The public defense takes place via Zoom only, participation online only (i.e. no ÅAU auditorium/room on campus is booked for the event).

The dissertation is finished – now what?

All doctoral dissertations at ÅAU will be published in the publication archive Doria.

Doctoral dissertations must be available in Doria no later than 10 days before the public defence.

You also need to report your dissertation in the Åbo Akademi University research information system AboCRIS. In AboCRIS, anyone can acquaint themselves with the research conducted at Åbo Akademi University.

All doctoral dissertations at ÅAU are printed by Painosalama

The printing company will not start printing until permission for the public defense has been granted (no later than one month before the public defense). The personnel at the printer communicate in Finnish and English.

- Before you send your dissertation to the printer, remember to convert it into a single print-ready pdf-file. The material should be sent to the printer one month before the public defense, at the latest, to make sure the printing is ready on time for the distribution of the dissertation.

The language of the dissertation

An abstract in Swedish (1 page) must be included if the dissertation or thesis is written in a language other than Swedish, Danish or Norwegian.

A summary in English (1 page) must be included if the dissertation or thesis is written in a language other than English.

If the dissertation will be published by a commercial publisher, the abstract or summary may be printed on a loose-leaf sheet, which will be inserted into copies of the dissertation to be used in the public defense.

Notification of public examination (electronic form)

The doctoral researcher completes the form "Notification of public examination" when the dean's decision is made, no later than one month before the public defense. The information in the form concerning the doctoral researcher is used for general information, press releases, in connection with the granting of printing contribution, and by the Åbo Akademi University Library.

Cover of the dissertation



The cover is included in the agreement that ÅAU has with the printer Painosalama, they will make it for you if you wish; you do not have to make it yourself in InDesign.

ISBN, ISSN, loose leaf, title page and colour



The loose leaf is a dissertation leaf containing information on the public defense (time, place, etc.). You are responsible for delivering the information for the loose leaf to the printing company. If your dissertation is published as an **article dissertation** at Åbo Akademi University, you are responsible for the loose leaf and the title page. You can contact the Åbo Akademi University Library by email ISBN@abo.fi or Librarian Carola Bergman regarding ISBNs.

If your dissertation is published as a **monograph** with the Åbo Akademi University Press, you can contact the Åbo Akademi University Library by email ISBN@abo.fi or Librarian Carola Bergman regarding the loose leaf, ISBN and ISSN codes, title pages and half title.

Request for printing contribution

Request for printing contribution

You can submit a request for a printing contribution to Research Coordinator Johanna Hedenborg when you have received permission for the public defence. **You apply for the printing contribution by filling in this online application form** The contribution that is granted depends on the format and the publishing of the dissertation:

- **NB regarding the printing contribution in connection to commercial publication**, please contact research coordinator Johanna Hedenborg (johanna.hedenborg@abo.fi)
- The ÅAU layout and cover are a **prerequisite** for getting the ÅAU printing contribution for ÅAU doctoral dissertations.

Procedure for public defense

The dress code is agreed upon beforehand, with all participants wearing uniform attire as follows:

- Men: Black tailcoat with a black waistcoat and white tie. No patent leather shoes, white pocket square or gloves. Alternative: Academics or a black suit without decorations.
- Women: Long black gown or long black skirt (Alternative: Finely tailored coat and skirt), white blouse and black jacket, pantsuit, black shoes. No gloves or handbags.

- The Respondent delivers a *lectio praecursoria* on the subject pertaining to the dissertation. The *lectio* might, for example, present the research area as well as the research work and method used for the dissertation. The *lectio* begins with the salutation: “Honoured Custos, honoured Opponent, ladies and gentlemen”. The Respondent may sit down after this opening phrase. The *lectio* should last 15-20 minutes.
- Upon completion of the *lectio*, the Respondent may submit a list of misprints to the Opponent. This list may also be distributed to the audience.
- Standing, the Respondent completes his or her *lectio* with the words: “I call upon the Opponent appointed by the dean (Faculty Council) to make any comments that he or she finds that my dissertation gives rise to.” If the defense continues in a language other than Swedish, the above phrase should also be said in the language in question. The Respondent remains standing

<https://www.abo.fi/en/research-at-aau/postgraduate-and-doctoral-studies/for-preliminary-examiners-and-opponents/procedure-for-public-defence/>

The grading scale for a doctoral dissertation at ÅAU is two-graded:

- Pass
- Pass with honours

The opponent

Immediately following the public defense, the opponent will meet with the examination board to discuss the assessment criteria and grading scale.

- After the public defense, the opponent will have 14 days to submit a written report, along with a proposed grade, to Research Services

The examination board

The task of the Examination Board is to, together with the opponent, discuss the assessment criteria and grading scale, and partly in relation to other dissertations in the subject and scientific discipline in question. The Examination Board shall then issue an assessment decision, which is to be confirmed by the Faculty Board



Degree certificate

The official degree certificate is electronic. The electronic degree certificate will include all parts of the certificate: cover page, transcript of records and Diploma Supplement. All doctoral researchers will receive their degree certificates in both Swedish and English

A doctoral researchers who graduates can, if desired, request a free printout of the degree certificate from the faculty office. Although you can receive a printout or print it yourself, only the electronic version of the degree certificate is the original.