

Final seminar - guidelines One opponent (preferably external)	
Time and place	<p>When the candidate has reached approximately 90% of their thesis. Normally, the final seminar will take place 2–4 months before the planned submission.</p> <p>Candidate, main supervisor and audience can meet physically on campus. The external opponent participates via Zoom. Alternatively, the seminar can be fully digital, depending on the candidate's preference.</p> <p>The event is streamed. The main supervisor (who will be the host on Zoom/Teams) is responsible for creating a link to Zoom/Teams, and for communicating this to the PhD coordinator.</p>
Duration	120 minutes
Deadline for submission	Four weeks prior to the seminar or as agreed upon between the candidate and the opponent.
Participants	<p>Candidate, opponent, supervisor(s).</p> <p>All PhD candidates in the programme and all staff at the department are invited.</p>
Written documentation	<p>The candidate submits a report (including points a-d below). The candidate sends it to the opponent, supervisor(s), head of programme and PhD coordinator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Summary of the work completed so far. The parts of the thesis work that are available at the current stage are attached. This forms the main basis for evaluation. b. Written assessment from the opponent at the midterm seminar. c. List of planned concluding activities (training component). d. Description of the new knowledge the project has contributed to the specified research field so far. <p>The report for an article-based thesis should generally not exceed 100 pages (including attachments). The length of the report for a monograph is agreed upon between the candidate, the supervisor, and the opponent. The report is sent to the PhD coordinator by email.</p> <p>The candidate must also prepare a summary/brief version of the report (maximum 1-2 pages) for the PhD coordinator. This is sent out with the invitation to the seminar.</p>

Responsible parties at the faculty	<p>The main supervisor initiates the seminar, identifies/requests an opponent with expertise in the relevant field, and creates the digital link. They inform the head of programme and PhD coordinator.</p> <p>The doctoral candidate is responsible for submitting the written materials by the agreed deadline as outlined above.</p> <p>The PhD coordinator is responsible for coordinating the seminar timing, sending out the invitation, and arranging honorarium payment for an external opponent. If the opponent is internal, hours are scheduled directly with the head of department.</p>
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Opponent	Professor (or alternatively associate professor or docent) with expertise in the relevant research area. The supervisor, in consultation with the program coordinator, appoints an opponent who is not affiliated with the current thesis work.
Purpose of the seminar	To conduct a critical and realistic review of the work completed so far, identifying what remains to be done before the thesis is ready for submission. The seminar should help the candidate assess what is lacking and provide guidance on further work for the remainder of the doctoral period. The opponent should take into account the assessment/advice provided in connection with the midterm seminar.
The course of the seminar	The candidate begins with a brief presentation of their own work, focusing on highlighting what characterizes their contribution to the relevant research field (approximately 15 minutes). The opponent then takes over. They point out strengths in the work as well as areas for development, and specific aspects they believe need further improvement, clarification, or specification. Based on the written documentation, the opponent aims to provide concrete advice regarding what remains to be done before the candidate can submit the thesis. This part of the opposition should take a dialogical form, inviting the candidate to discuss the points raised by the opponent and to ask clarifying questions. Attendees are then invited to provide comments/questions.
Assessment after the seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the academic quality of the work that has been carried out (e.g., theory, methodology, analysis, relevance to practice)? • What remains to be done before the thesis can be submitted?