



## PhD in Science of Professions – Guidelines for evaluation committees

This document provides a brief summary of the role of the chair and the assessment committee of theses submitted for the degree of PhD in Science of Professions at Nord University. These guidelines are also based upon the [Regulation for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor \(PhD\) at Nord University, Guidelines for PhD in Science of Professions](#), and [Guidelines for the Assessment of Candidates for Norwegian Doctoral Degrees](#). ([in Norwegian](#))

The assessment committee assesses the academic quality of the PhD thesis, draws up a preliminary assessment and participates in the trial lecture and public defence.

**The chair** directs the work of the committee and should provide guidance to the other members to ensure the following:

- That the provisions laid down in the regulation for the PhD degree are followed.
- That the wording of the preliminary assessment indicates that the requirements of international standard laid down in the regulation for the PhD degree are met.
- That a high academic level is maintained to provide the best possible basis for award of the PhD degree.
- Setting and coordinating the date of the public defence. A tentative date for the trial lecture and public defence is coordinated with the supervisors and the Dean, and set as soon as possible after the committee is appointed.

The chair must therefore:

- Contact the other members immediately after receipt of the thesis to agree the responsibilities for the different members in the committee.
- Ensure that the preliminary assessment drawn up by the committee appears as a cohesive and harmonic whole in terms of linguistic, stylistic and graphical consistency, and that the wording is accepted by all members of the committee. For this reason, appendices to the assessment will not be accepted
- Ensure that the committee will meet in case of disagreements.
- Contact the working committee (Arbeidsutvalget) if practical or formal problems emerge during the assessment process.
- Ensure that the other members of the assessment committee are provided with the necessary knowledge of how the trial lecture and public defence will be conducted.

- Supervise the other members of the assessment committee regarding the required academic level and the practical issues concerning the trial lecture and public defence.
- Ensure that a title for the trial lecture is submitted with the assessment report, provided that the thesis is declared worthy of defence.
- Ensure that the documents required for assessment and trial lecture and public defence are signed and returned to the working committee (Arbeidsutvalget) in due time.

### **Deadlines**

- The committee submit its evaluation report within three (3) months after receiving the thesis, and no later than five (5) weeks prior to the date of the trial lecture and public defence. The theme for the trial lecture must be submitted together with the evaluation report, provided that the thesis is declared worthy of defence.

### **Trial lecture:**

- The objective of the trial lecture is to document the PhD candidate's ability to impart knowledge gained through his/her research. The theme of the prescribed topic given by the committee should not be selected from the central research questions covered by the doctoral candidate's degree work. The trial lecture should be structured so as to be accessible to an audience with knowledge of the subject that can be expected among advanced students (with at least one year of study in the academic field). The lecture is given on the day of the public defence. Its duration 45 minutes including questions from the committee and others.