

Information on the preparation and format of a public defence of a doctoral thesis

Dear students,

The public defence of your doctoral thesis is the final step in your doctorate. The purpose of the public defence is the oral defence of your written thesis, i.e. your hypothesis, findings and research design, in front of reviewers and the examination committee. Public defences are public events, e.g. an audience may be present.

The Director of Studies is responsible for the nomination of the members of the examination committee. However, you have the right to suggest appropriate members for this committee. Examination committees must be made up of at least three people, usually the two reviewers and a chairperson. If a reviewer cannot attend in person, he/she may select another person holding a habilitation qualification to represent him/her. Upon request the initial reviewer can attend the public defence via video conference. The University of Vienna supports the participation of external reviewers in a public defence and allocates a maximum of € 500 per public defence for this purpose to cover travel expenses incurred. It is recommended that your thesis supervisor participates in your public defence.

Generally, the Director of Studies serves as chairperson, but this role can be delegated if required.

It is your responsibility to arrange a suitable date for the public defence with all parties, in consultation with the StudiesServiceCenter (SSC).

A public defence lasts about an hour. It starts with your 20-minute presentation. Your presentation must clearly define the thesis project and justify your findings and research design. It is important that you specifically tackle the comments in the reviews and defend your doctoral thesis in the solid academic sense. The colloquium then commences and is usually opened by the person chairing the examination committee. Then the reviewers put more in-depth and advanced questions to you.

Further information on the doctoral programme is available on the website of the StudiesServiceCenter for the doctoral programme in Social Sciences.

<http://doktorat-sowi.univie.ac.at/>

Do not hesitate to contact the StudiesServiceCenter if you have any queries:

Erika Mikusch

erika.mikusch@univie.ac.at

Birgit Muskovich

birgit.muskovich@univie.ac.at

StudiesServiceCenter for the doctoral programme in Social Sciences

C622

Neues Institutsgebäude (NIG)

Universitätsstrasse 7

[Tel:+43-1-4277-49107](tel:+43-1-4277-49107)