

Evaluation criteria for doctoral dissertations and licentiate theses

Acceptable theses are assessed on a scale from 1 to 5.

All doctoral dissertations and licentiate theses are expected to comply with the responsible conduct of research and research ethical principles.

- Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations for misconduct in Finland by Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (TENK): <https://tenk.fi/en/advice-and-materials>
- Ethical guidelines for studying and the processing of academic fraud at the University of Jyväskylä (Rector's Decision): https://uno.jyu.fi/en/jyu/rectors-decisions/education/rehtorin-paatos-opiskelun-eettiset-ohjeet-ja-vilppitapausten-kasittely-jyvaskylan-yliopistossa-17-1-2019_en.pdf/view.

Please note that the doctoral dissertation or licentiate thesis will be evaluated as an entity, wherein the importance of different sections may vary.

	Pass (1)	Satisfactory (2)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)	Excellent (5)
The Student's Mastery of the Discipline	The student is familiar with the discipline's essential theoretical foundations but shows inadequate skills in applying its research tradition in his/her research.	The student commands the discipline's essential theoretical foundations and is able to apply the main issues of its research tradition in his/her research.	The student has digested the discipline's theoretical foundations and is familiar with its research tradition and able to justifiably apply it in his/her research.	The student demonstrates a mastery of the discipline's theoretical foundations and has successfully applied its research tradition in his/her research.	The student demonstrates an excellent mastery of the discipline's theoretical foundations and a profound understanding of its research tradition as well as an ability to creditably and justifiably apply these in his/her research.
The Student's Mastery of His/Her Field of Expertise	The student demonstrates a limited mastery of the field's essential theories and concepts but their description and definition may be inadequate or they are used limitedly or inconsistently.	The student is familiar with the field's essential theories and concepts but shows concise skills in applying them.	The student demonstrates a good mastery of the field's essential theories and concepts and applies them correctly in his/her work.	The student demonstrates a broad mastery of the field's essential theories and concepts and applies them creditably in his/her work.	The student demonstrates a broad and profound mastery of the field's essential theories and concepts and applies them excellently and creatively in his/her work.
Research Problems and	The research problems are rather unambitious and are	The research problems are justifiable. The research	The research problems are justifiable and connect with	The research problems are well justified and the	The research problems are innovative and very justifiable

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Questions	only loosely tied to the theoretical framework. The research questions could be substantially better defined and formulated. The research frame is not well-defined and coherent.	questions are derived from the research problems, but could be better defined. The research frame is fairly logical.	the theoretical framework. The research questions are clearly defined and formulated and the research frame is logical.	theoretical framework is logical. The research questions are very clearly defined and formulated.	and they connect logically with the theoretical framework. The research questions are creditably defined and formulated and the research frame shows creative thinking.
	Pass (1)	Satisfactory (2)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)	Excellent (5)
Material, method and analysis	The selection, limiting, collection and management of the research material, as well as their presentation, have shortcomings. The material is in sufficient harmony with the research question. Method selection and its justification have shortcomings. The analysis is mainly reliable and demonstrates a mastery of the chosen method, but it can be mechanical or inaccurate in places.	The selection, limiting, collection and management of the research material, and/or their presentation, have some shortcomings. The material is in satisfactory harmony with the research question. Method selection and its justification have some shortcomings. The analysis demonstrates a mastery of the chosen method and is reliable but may have some shortcomings in accuracy.	The selection, limiting, collection and management of the research material is in harmony with the research question, and they have been presented with sufficient accuracy and justification. The chosen materials enable answering the research question. Method selection has been justified. The analysis demonstrates a good mastery of the method, and the analysis is accurate and reliable.	The selection, limiting, collection and management of the research material have been optimally implemented and presented, as well as extensively justified. The chosen materials are optimal for answering the research question. Method selection has been justified. The analysis demonstrates a very good mastery of the chosen method. The analysis is systematic, accurate and reliable.	The selection, limiting, collection and management of the research material are creditable and their presentation is excellent and comprehensive. The chosen material suits the research question excellently. The choice of material and method demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the research question. The choice of method has been presented and justified creditably. The analysis demonstrates an excellent mastery of the chosen method, and the research is methodologically and analytically innovative. The analysis is insightful, systematic, accurate and reliable.
Findings and Conclusions	The findings are logically presented, but the implications are inadequately discussed. The research provides answers to the questions presented but the findings could be more closely connected to the theoretical framework. The dissertation contributes a limited amount of new	The findings are logically presented and the implications are discussed. The research provides answers to the questions presented and most findings are connected to the theoretical framework. The dissertation contributes some new	The presentation and discussion of the findings are competent. The research provides good answers to the questions presented and the interpretation of the findings is connected to the theoretical framework. The dissertation contributes new knowledge or a new perspective on the field.	The presentation and discussion of the findings are competent and insightful. The research provides good answers to the questions presented and the interpretation of the findings is proficiently connected to the theoretical framework. The dissertation makes a substantial theoretical or	Both the presentation and discussion of the findings are competent and insightful. The research provides excellent answers to the questions presented and the interpretation of the findings is expertly connected to the theoretical framework. The dissertation makes a substantial theoretical and empirical contribution to the

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	knowledge.	knowledge or a new perspective on the field.		empirical contribution to the field.	field.
	Pass (1)	Satisfactory (2)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)	Excellent (5)
Reporting	The reporting of the research has structural, linguistic or stylistic shortcomings, which impairs the overall coherence.	The research is clearly reported but its structure, style or linguistic form may have minor shortcomings.	The research is clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are flawless.	The research is very clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are very good.	The research is remarkably clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are excellent.
Public Defence of the Dissertation	The candidate presents and defends the dissertation adequately.	The candidate presents and defends the dissertation satisfactorily.	The candidate presents and defends the dissertation successfully.	The candidate presents and defends the dissertation very well.	The candidate presents and defends the dissertation excellently.

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