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| <p><b>REQUIREMENTS FOR<br/>A DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AT LUT</b></p>                      | <p>The dissertation may be a monograph or an article-based dissertation consisting of refereed scientific publications on the research topic and a summary of them. The dissertation shall contribute new scientific knowledge to its field. The author shall explicitly explain his or her own contribution to the research at the beginning of the dissertation.</p> <p>Further information: <a href="#">LUT dissertation regulations</a>.</p>  |
| <p><b>TWO STAGES OF THE EXAMINATION<br/>PROCESS</b></p>                                | <p>There are two stages in the approval of a doctoral dissertation: 1) the preliminary examination and 2) the public examination of the dissertation.</p> <p>The purpose of the preliminary examination is to establish whether the dissertation manuscript fulfills the scientific and formal requirements.</p> <p>At the public examination, the dissertation and the ability of the candidate to defend it will be further examined and assessed.</p>  |
| <p><b>THE FIRST STAGE:<br/>THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION<br/>&amp; THE STATEMENT</b></p> | <p>The preliminary examination is the most essential part of the examination process of the dissertation. A preliminary examination statement on the dissertation is requested from <b>two external</b> experts. Based on these statements, the Academic Council decides on granting the permission to print the dissertation.</p> <p>Before giving the final statement, the preliminary examiner may ask the doctoral candidate to make changes to the manuscript by contacting the primary supervisor. Although the preliminary examiner is not expected to do the work of the supervisor, suggestions concerning improvements are welcome.</p> <p>In the final statement, the preliminary examiner should pay particular attention to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific novelty and contribution to the discipline</li> <li>- Practical and societal contribution and implications</li> <li>- Rigor and appropriateness of research methods</li> <li>- Publications and contribution of the candidate (especially in article-based dissertations)</li> <li>- Documentation and presentation of the work</li> </ul> |

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|   | <p>The final statement should not be conditional, in other words the preliminary examiner should clearly express whether he/she is for or against granting the permission to print the dissertation.</p> <p>The statement is addressed to the Academic Council. It should be submitted to the LUT Doctoral School preferably <i>within one month - but at the latest within two months - after receiving the manuscript of the dissertation</i>. If changes to the work are required, this may naturally prolong the examination process.</p> <p>If one or both of the statements take a negative stand, the Academic Council will interrupt the dissertation process.</p>   |
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| <p><b>THE SECOND STAGE:<br/>PUBLIC EXAMINATION AND<br/>THE ORAL STATEMENT</b></p> | <p>The Academic Council makes the final decision whether the dissertation is ready for publication and the public examination. At the same time, one or two opponents are appointed.</p> <p>The dissertation will be defended in a public examination, which is open to the general audience as well. After the opening words of the custos and the lectio praecursoria given by the doctoral candidate the opponent (or one of the opponents) gives a short oral statement concerning the position and the scientific significance of the dissertation in its field.</p> <p>After this, the doctoral dissertation is examined and the opponents pose the doctoral candidate both general and detailed questions concerning the work. The examination usually takes 2-3 hours. However, the maximum duration of an examination is four hours.</p> <p>At the end of the public examination, one of the opponents orally presents the final statement in which he/she evaluates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the merits and the deficiencies of the work taking into account its scientific novelty</li> <li>- the way the work has been carried out</li> <li>- its results and documentation and</li> <li>- the ability of the doctoral candidate to defend his or her work at the public examination</li> </ul> <p>Further information: <a href="#">Instructions for the public examination at LUT</a></p> |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WRITTEN STATEMENT</b></p>  | <p>After the public examination, the opponent fills in an assessment form (includes instructions) and prepares a written statement on the dissertation (approximately two pages). In case there are two opponents, the statement may also be a joint statement. In addition to the oral statement given at the public examination, the opponent(s) may bring forth in their written statement certain new points that arose at the examination. The written statement must also include an evaluation of the candidate's performance in the public examination (e.g. knowledge of the field in general and ability to position one's own research, understanding of relevant theories and methods, quality of argumentation during the public examination).</p> <p>The final statement shall include the suggestion for the grade (<i>approved</i> or <i>approved with distinction</i>). The grade <i>approved with distinction</i> requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The dissertation has particular scientific merits.</li> <li>- The results are exceptionally significant compared to other dissertations in the research field.</li> <li>- The articles in an article-based dissertation have been published in international scientific series of high standard, or in other equivalent publications subject to peer review.</li> <li>- The student has a significant independent contribution in obtaining the results.</li> <li>- The manner of representation is clear and the language and reference practice used are first-rate.</li> <li>- The dissertation has been defended excellently in the public examination.</li> </ul> <p>The objective at Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT is that the number of dissertations approved with the grade <i>approved with distinction</i> should not exceed 10-15 % of all of the doctoral dissertations.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that the opponents prepare their statement immediately after the public examination.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>(grades failed/approved/approved with distinction)</p> | <p>The Academic Council makes the final decision on the acceptance and assessment of the dissertation based on the statement of the opponent(s).</p>   |