

Defense and Evaluation of the Doctoral Thesis

The PhD student can only defend his/her doctoral thesis once (article 15 of the Cotutelle Regulation).

Call for Thesis Defense

The defense and evaluation of the doctoral thesis will comply with the rules and regulation of the university where the viva is taking place (article 14 of the Cotutelle Regulation).

However, the thesis supervisor of the University of Murcia must notify the date of the viva to the General Committee of PhD, within a period of seven working days*.

** Non-working days are Saturdays and Sundays, specific holidays of the city of Murcia, as well as Christmas, Easter and the week after (Fiestas de Primavera) and August.*

In addition, prior to the viva, the thesis supervisor of the University of Murcia must go to the Postgraduate Section and collect the documents used by the members of the Examining Board during the viva (forms and envelopes for the mention of “cum laude” and the outstanding PhD award, if applicable).

There are certain aspects of our Regulation, both for the PhD and the Cotutelle, that must be taken into account:

I.- The foreign universities must issue a certificate mentioning the following:

- * date of the viva;
- * marks obtained; and
- * the name of the Examining Board members that were present during the viva.

A certified copy of the minutes could be valid since it includes all the information mentioned above.

II.- Each member of the Examining Board must issue a written report with their



evaluation. In addition, the Examining Board must ensure that the marks correspond to the following scale:

PASS WITH HONOURS (sobresaliente)

PASS WITH DISTINCTION (notable)

PASS (aprobado)

FAIL (no apto)

If the foreign university did not issue the certificate or the marks did not correspond to those mentioned above, the final mark will not be uploaded into the PhD student's academic record.

At the University of Murcia, PhD students can be awarded with the following mentions:

III. “cum laude” - To be awarded with this mention the PhD student must have obtained a grade of sobresaliente (pass with honours). The vote for this mention must be unanimous.

When announcing this decision, the Examining Board must write the requirements needed for awarding the PhD student with a grade of sobresaliente (pass with honours) and must mention the unanimous voting (report duly signed by the President and the Secretary of the Examining Board). If the Examining Board did not notify this decision or the requirements are not met, then, our institution will not be able to upload this mention into the PhD student's academic record.

IV.- “International PhD”

Doctoral students must certify that during their academic training period in the PhD they have spent a minimum of 6 months outside of Spain in a renowned higher education institution or research center studying or conducting a research work. The stay and activities must be endorsed by the director and authorised by the Academic Committee and will be incorporated into the doctoral student's activities portfolio.



- a. The doctoral thesis, at least the abstract and conclusions, must be written and submitted in one of the regular languages for scientific communication in its area of knowledge, different from any of the official languages in Spain. This rule shall not apply when stays, reports and experts come from a Spanish-speaking country.
- b. The thesis must have been endorsed by a minimum of two expert doctors belonging to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research institute. Such reports must state the suitability of the thesis for the admission to the PhD degree.
- c. At least one expert belonging to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre, with the title of doctor, and different from the person responsible for the stay mentioned in section a. must have been part of the Examining Board of the thesis.

The requirements mentioned above (a, b and c) must have been officially recognized at the time of the thesis submission.

However, after the defense, the Secretary of the Examining Board of the Doctoral Thesis will certify that the Examining Board has been constituted with at least one member belonging to a Higher Education Institution or Research Institute of a member state of the European Union other than Spain and that part of the thesis defense has been made in a language of a member country of the European Union other than any of the official languages in Spain.

As in the case above, if such a certificate is not issued by the Secretary of the Examining Board, the “International Mention” may not be applied in



the student's file.

According to our regulations, the members of the Examining Board must issue a report for the Outstanding PhD award, if applicable. The Postgraduate Section will provide the director of the thesis at the University of Murcia with the corresponding forms (without signature) and envelopes which must be delivered duly sealed and signed by the secretary of the Examining Board in the Postgraduate Section for safekeeping.

After the thesis defense, the director at the University of Murcia will submit in the Postgraduate Section the documents completed by the Examining Board (above) mentioned in sections: I, II, III and IV, if applicable, as well as forms for Outstanding PhD Award in sealed envelopes signed by the Secretary of the Examining Board, if applicable.

Postgraduate Section
Graduate and Postgraduate Service
Department of Academic Management
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