



The Defence of a Doctoral Dissertation

Chair of the defence ceremony

- leads the defence on behalf of the Head of the Academic Council
- safeguards the academic standard of the defence ceremony

Author

- has the opportunity to start the defence with a lecture of up to 30 minutes
- must respond to questions raised by the opponents

Chair of the assessment committee

- ensures the integrity of the signing process of the *statement regarding the defence*
- leads the procession with the author and the official opponents to their seats
- is welcome to take part in the debate by registering as an unofficial opponent with the chair of the defence ceremony, before the defence commences or, at the latest, prior to the second opponent begins his questioning

Officially appointed opponents

- comprise the external members of the assessment committee
- debate the scientific content of the dissertation with the author

Opponents ex auditorio (unofficial opponents)

- are welcome to participate in the debate by registering with the chair of the defence ceremony before the defence commences or, at the latest, prior to the second opponent begins his questioning

The Course of the Defence

1. The chair of the defence ceremony asks the audience to rise. The chair of the assessment committee leads the procession with the author and the official opponents to their seats.
2. The chair of the defence ceremony welcomes the audience on behalf of the University of Copenhagen.
3. The author may start the defence with a lecture of up to 30 minutes on the scientific content of the dissertation.

4. Each officially appointed opponent has a maximum of 1½ hours for questioning, including the candidate's response, while each unofficial opponent has a maximum of 45 minutes. The time allotted to opponents may be reduced or increased according to circumstances. The chair of the defence ceremony may allow contributions from opponents who register at the defence, but priority must be given to those who registered in advance. The oral defence in its entirety shall not exceed six hours, including breaks.
5. The chair of the defence ceremony concludes the session and, on behalf of the University of Copenhagen, thanks the assessment committee for their work.
6. Immediately after the defence ceremony, the opponents are given an opportunity to evaluate the defence of the dissertation, in order to sign the *statement regarding the defence*. The statement reports whether or not the official opponents find that the doctoral degree can be awarded. An audio recording must be made of the defence. The chair of the defence ceremony will be responsible for submitting the recording, along with the *statement regarding the defence*, to the Faculty.