


DOCTORAL COURSE
Land Environment Resources and Health (L.E.R.H.)

LERH PhD Program
University of Padova

**The final exam:
how it works**



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Outline

- Actors
- Main steps
- Schedule
- Who can be a reviewer?
- Who can be a member of the final Commission?
- Postponement of the thesis discussion
- Other issues




Actors

- The students
- The supervisor(s)
- The reviewers (2 for each thesis)
- The PhD program Council: all the teachers of the program, potential and real supervisors
- The final Commission



Main steps


1. **Internal evaluation** made by the Supervisor(s) and the Council
2. **Individual external evaluation** made by the 2 external **reviewers** (experts of the topic)
3. **Group external evaluation** made by the **final Commission** (at least 3 members, normally 1-2 with a background on the thesis topic)

 **Schedule**
1st step

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1 st week Oct	3-years report prepared, evaluation of the supervisor prepared, presentation and discussion of the work done in front of the Council
15 th Oct	Students are formally admitted to the following steps by the Council (short written evaluation). 2+1 reviewers are designated
31 st Oct	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;">End of the LERH program</div> <div style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;">Thesis is upload in its final version</div>

Note: after 31st Oct students may be financed by their supervisors till the final Discussion

 **Schedule**
2nd step

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Beginning Nov.	Reviewers start their revision – 30 days max available
Before the 2 nd week Dec.	Reviewers upload their revisions: a. The thesis doesn't need changes b. Minor changes needed c. Major changes needed
For b. and c.: within 30 days	Applicants upload a revised version of the thesis
Only for b.:	The thesis will be available for the final Commission evaluation (3 rd step) without any further evaluation

**Schedule
2nd step (cont.)**

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Only for c.:	Reviewers will make a 2 nd evaluation
If both the evaluations are positive	The thesis will be available for the final Commission evaluation (3 rd step)
If one evaluation is still negative	The Council will decide (after consulting the supervisors and the candidate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 months delay or - the thesis can be discussed in front of the final Commission

**Schedule
3rd step**

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Starting from the 1 st Feb. ...	2-4 final Commissions (with 3-5 members) will be organized (with 3-5 students/each). The Commission will check and discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The thesis - The oral presentation by the student (20-30 minutes) - The 2 reviewers' evaluation - The 3-years report - The supervisor's evaluation - The Council evaluation
... till the end of April	
After the final evaluation you are not anymore a PhD student!	



Who can act as a reviewer?

- A clear **expert** (academic or not, from a public or private organization) on the topic of the thesis
- An **independent** person:
 - not the supervisor or co-supervisors (of course!)
 - not a member of UNIPD or of the Universities that have a formal agreement with the LERH PhD program.
 - (preferably) not a co-author of the paper presented in the thesis
- **Not a retired** person



Who can act as a member of the final Commission?

- A **qualified** person (academic and from other research institutions) on one of the topics of the LERH PhD program
- An **independent** person:
 - not the supervisor or co-supervisors (of course!)
 - (preferably) not a co-author of the paper presented in the thesis
- **Not a retired** person

Postponement of the thesis discussion

If **exceptional or force majeure causes**, not depending from the student's will, prevent the candidate to discuss the thesis, he/she can make **a properly motivated request to the Rector** to postpone the submission of the thesis.

The Rector will decide on the matter, after receiving the **formal opinion of the LERH PhD program**.

Other issues

- The final Commission approves the thesis, gives the title, using only **2 marks** (approved with/without *laude*)
- All the procedure is organized **on line**, so the applicant will probably never see the reviewers
- In theory the reviewers could be part of the final Commission, but this option will be avoided in LERH
- The final examination (3rd step) can be organized with the **on line participation** of one of the members of the Commission (but not of its President and of the Secretary) and of the candidate. These options must be previously approved by the Rector
- To be allowed to write the **thesis in English** students need to make a formal request to the LERH Secretariat (this is an old stupid rule still working that we need to modify in the future)
- The University is organizing every year (October) an **award celebration of the PhD diploma** in the Aula Magna "Galileo Galilei" at the Bo' Palace

Good luck!

