

LERH PhD Program  
University of Padova

## The final exam: how it works



Davide Pettenella

## Outline

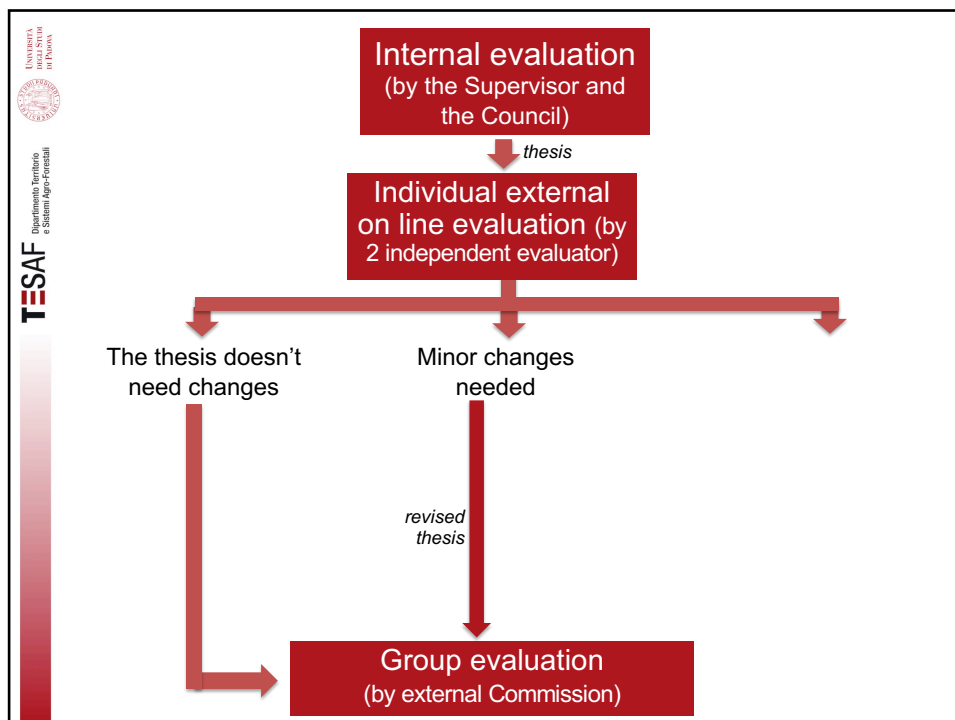
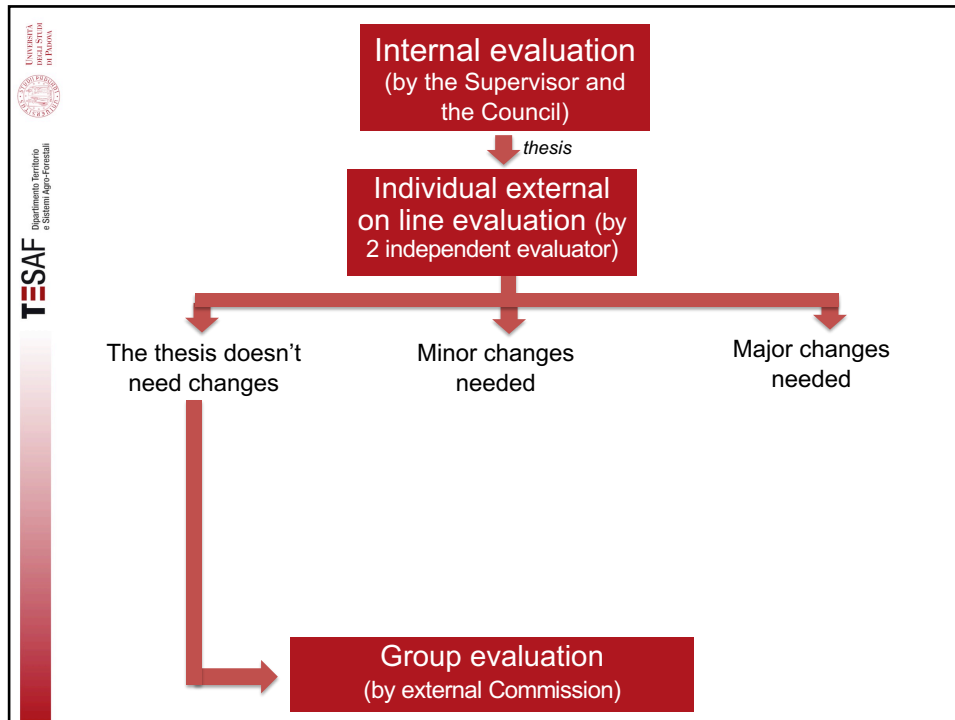
- Actors
- Main steps
- Schedule
- Who can be a reviewer?
- Who can be a member of the final Commission?
- Postponement of the thesis discussion
- Special examination procedures
- Other issues

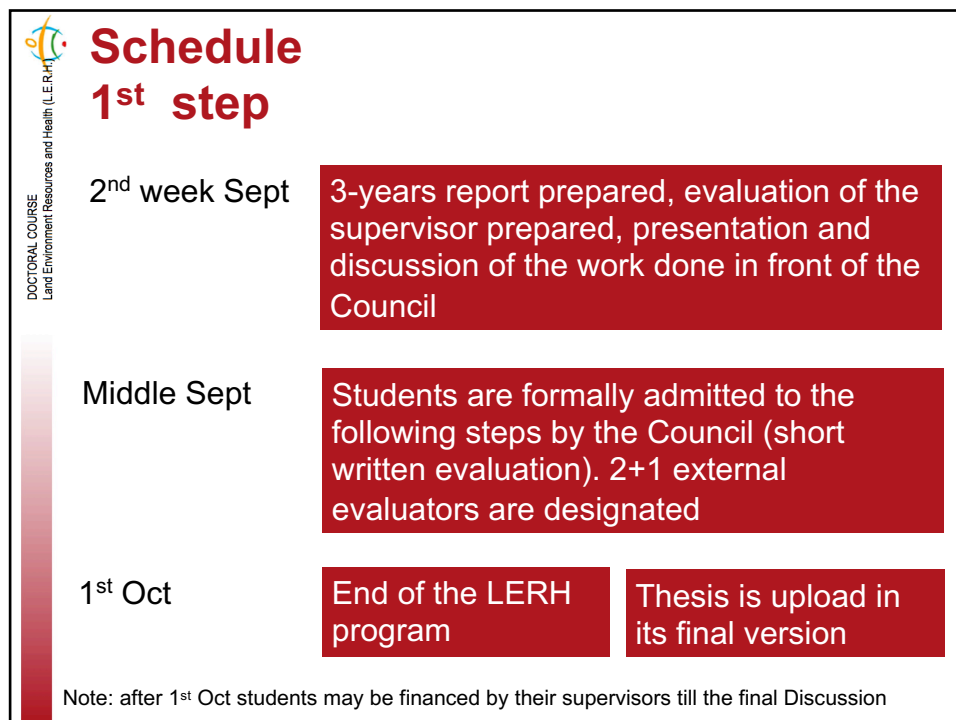
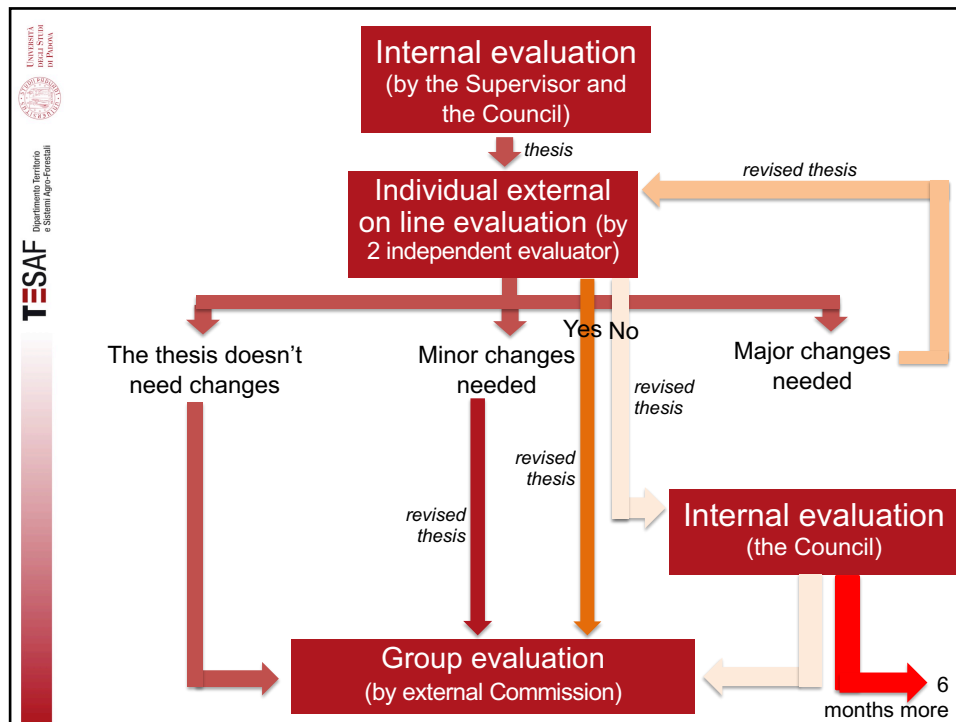
## Actors


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

## Main steps

1. **Internal evaluation** made by the Supervisor and the Council (Academic Board)
2. **Individual external review** made by the 2 external **evaluators** (experts of the topic, also non academic – not co-authors of papers of the candidate)
3. **Group external evaluation** made by a **Commission** (Jury for the final exam: at least 3 members, normally 1-2 with a background on the thesis topic)







## Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> step

**Beginning Oct**

**After 30 days  
(1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> week Nov)**

**For b. and c.:  
within 30 day  
(2nd Dec 2019)**

**Only for b. (minor r.):**


Evaluators formally accept (10 days) and start their revision – 30 days max available

**Evaluators upload their revisions:**

- a. The thesis doesn't need changes
- b. Minor changes needed
- c. Major changes needed

Applicants upload a revised version of the thesis

**The thesis will be available for the Jury for the final exam (3<sup>rd</sup> step) without any further evaluation**



## Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> step (cont.)

**Only for c. (major r.):**

Evaluators will make a 2<sup>nd</sup> evaluation in 30 days

**If both the evaluations are positive**

The thesis will be available for the Jury for the final exam (3<sup>rd</sup> step)

**If one evaluation is still negative**

The Council will decide (after consulting the supervisors and the candidate):

- 6 months delay (June-Oct) or
- the thesis can be discussed in front of the Jury for the final exam



## Schedule 3<sup>rd</sup> step

Starting from  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan ...

... till the end  
of March

2-4 Juries (with 3-5 members) will be organized (with 3-5 students/each). The Jury will check and discuss (with its own criteria):

- 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

After the final evaluation you are not anymore a PhD student!



## Who can act as an external evaluator?

- 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 Jury for the final exam?

- 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

## Special examination procedures

- **Joint or double PhD degree** with another university: see the rules described in the Agreement (in general: **2+2 members** of a Commission nominated by the 2 universities)
- **Doctor Europaeus:**
  - Thesis based on a **stage** of at least **3 months** in another EU country
  - Deadline for the request to UNIPD: **2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2019**
  - Thesis evaluation made by no less than **2 members coming from 2 different EU (non-Italian) universities**. They are not allowed to be members of the Jury
  - Jury made with at least **1 member coming from an EU (non-Italian) university**
  - Thesis discussion in English or in another language (no Italian, neither Veneto dialect admitted)

## Other issues

- The Jury for the final exam approves the thesis, gives the degree, using only **2 marks** (approved with/without *laude*) with a relatively informal exam session
- All the procedure is organized **on line**, so the applicant will probably never see the **external evaluators**, but they can (should) be **mentioned** in the thesis cover. It might be useful/kind to **send an hard copy of the thesis** for easing their review work (send a mail to offer this possibility)
- In theory the **evaluators** can be **part of the Jury for the final exam**, but this option will be avoided in LERH
- The final exam (3<sup>rd</sup> step) can be organized with the **on line participation** of the members of the **Jury** (but not of its President) and of the **candidate**. (In the past these options had to be previously approved by the Rector)
- To be allowed to write the **thesis in English** students **do not need** (starting from 32th Batch) to make a **formal request** to the LERH Secretariat
- The University is organizing every year (October) an **award celebration of the PhD diploma** in the Aula Magna "Galileo Galilei" at the Bo' Palace, with the Rector and the PhD Coordinators



A video of the celebration: [https://mediaspace.unipd.it/media/PHDA+October+23+Morning+Session/1\\_dkpz3171/80725661](https://mediaspace.unipd.it/media/PHDA+October+23+Morning+Session/1_dkpz3171/80725661)





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

**Good luck!**

