

Pre-examination practices from 1 August 2020

Degree regulations from 1 August 2020

The pre-examiners' responsibility is to issue a statement on whether a dissertation manuscript has such scientific or artistic value that the Faculty Council may authorise its presentation as a dissertation. The statement should be either favourable or unfavourable, not conditional. In a favourable statement, however, minor recommendations for corrections and amendments are possible and may be considered by the doctoral candidate. A proposal for the technical editing of the work is also possible.

If a favourable statement proposes corrections or editing

- The student goes through the change proposals with the supervisor and edits the manuscript in accordance with what was agreed in the guidance discussion.
- The student drafts a correction report, which the doctoral programme/Faculty Council processes when it grants the permission to defend the dissertation.

If a statement (or one of them) is unfavourable

- The statements are delivered to the student and the student is told that he or she can halt the pre-examination process.
- If the student requests halting the pre-examination process, a Dean's decision about the matter is done.
- The student goes through the statements with the supervisor and edits the manuscript in accordance with what was agreed in the guidance discussion.
- When the responsible supervisor sees that the necessary changes have been made and the manuscript can be submitted for pre-examination again, the student begins the process in accordance with the regular procedure.
- The same pre-examiners will be used if they agree.

- If the student does not request halting the pre-examination process, the request to defend the dissertation may be processed as usual, meaning that the decision can be that the doctoral defence is not permitted.
- The student discusses editing needs with the supervisor.
- When the responsible supervisor sees that the necessary changes have been made and the manuscript can be submitted for pre-examination again, the student begins the process in accordance with the regular procedure.

Principles and observations based on the discussion on 16 June 2020

- The pre-examination statement always deals with the manuscript version that was sent to pre-examination. This means that a favourable statement does not remain valid if the other statement is unfavourable and the manuscript is edited on its basis.
- The number of pre-examination rounds is not limited.
- The student can be suggested that the manuscript is dealt with as a licentiate's thesis if the pre-examination statements note that the level of the manuscript is not sufficient as a doctoral dissertation even after editing.