

**Procedure for trial lecture and public defence**  
**Faculty of Health Sciences, the University of Stavanger**

The actual public defence normally begins at 12 am, while the trial lecture begins at 10 am. Both events are usually held on the same day.

1. 10:00 am: The chair of the defence (Dean or Associate Dean of research or head of department or person authorized by Dean) briefly presents the doctoral candidate.
2. 10:05 am: Trial lecture on the assigned topic. The length of the trial lecture should be 45 minutes +/- 5 minutes. No questions are permitted.
3. 11:00 am – 12:00 am: Lunch for opposing speakers, candidate's supervisors and chair of the defence. Before or after the lunch, the assessment committee withdraws to reach a decision regarding approval of the trial lecture. When it comes to the filling in of forms (travel expenses refund, assessment agreement and fee etc.), executive assistance is provided right after the lunch.
4. The actual public defence then starts.

Copies of the candidate's dissertation should be available in the lecture room from 11:45 am. When the audience has settled, the secretary of the doctoral degree board (at the faculty) asks the audience to stand up. Cell phones must be turned off.

A procession enters the auditorium in the following order: The chair of the defence leads the procession (wearing an academic gown during the actual public defence), followed by the opposing speakers (first opponent, second opponent, etc.), the chair of the assessment committee and finally the doctoral candidate (may wear an academic gown if he/she wishes).

5. 12:00 pm: The person presiding at the defence provides an introduction.

The candidate is presented and the audience is informed that any ex auditorio opposing speakers who have questions they would like to discuss, must register their intent during the interval following the first round of opposition, and before the second opposing speaker commences.

Digital participants (via Zoom, Teams or similar) who wish to oppose ex auditorio, must register their intent in the "chat" before the first opposition has finished.

Every such contribution should be well prepared and precisely stated within a maximum of 10 minutes.

6. The doctoral candidate's presentation:

By way of introduction, the doctoral candidate then presents his/her dissertation and gives an account of the purpose and the results of the scientific investigation. The time limit for the presentation is 20 minutes.

7. First opposition:

The chair of the defence invites the first opposing speaker and the doctoral candidate to take the floor.

The first opposing speaker presents his/her opposition, including comments on the candidate's presentation.

This is followed by ordinary opposition / response.

The total allotted time for the first opposition is roughly 1 hour and 30 minutes.

8 After the first opposition:

15-20 minutes interval. There will be no procession in the interval.

9 Second opposition:

Before the second opposing speaker and the doctoral candidate is invited to take the floor, the chair of the defence will inform the audience of opposing speakers ex auditorio, if any. The second opposing speaker now presents his/her opposition (1 hour).

Following this second opposition, the last member(s) of the committee may present his/her comments and questions as well. Finally, the registered opposing speakers from the audience can speak. The candidate must be given the opportunity to answer all oppositions.

10. When the opposition has ended:

Before leaving the auditorium in front of the dissertation committee, the person presiding asks the audience not to leave the room. Now, the assessment committee convenes to discuss whether the work meets the criteria for approval.

11. The assessment committee returns, led by the chair of the defence, and the chair of the committee either announces the decision or the need for additional time for further deliberation.

12. The chair of the defence presents a floral tribute to the candidate. While the audience keeps seated, the chair of the defence concludes the defence. Any informal social gathering after the public defence is announced. Everyone is requested to stand up.

13. Procession out of the auditorium:

The doctoral candidate has now "increased his/her standing" and the order of the procession leaving the auditorium is as follows: The chair of the defence walks in front of the procession out of the room, followed by the doctoral candidate, the first opposing speaker, the second opposing speaker and finally the last one (or two) member(s) of the committee.

14. The committee must complete a certificate of approval and all the committee members sign two original copies of the dissertation (not required for digital/hybrid defences).