



Guidelines for the thesis defence

President of the jury:

The president of the jury must be specified in advance in the defence application form. In principle, the president must be chosen among the members of the jury, except for the external expert and the thesis director. The president of the jury must be a member of the Faculty of Medicine (BIOMED and GESAN programs) or Science (ECOVO, PHARMA, BIOMO and PHYVI programs) and will chair the session.

Course of the defence:

- 1- The president of the jury introduces the candidate, the members of the jury, the title of the thesis, and the main steps of the defence.
- 2- The floor is then given to the candidate for approximately 45 min of presentation.
- 3- After the presentation and before the questions, members of the audience not wishing to attend the question session may leave the room.
- 4- The questions session begins with the external expert and ends with the PI who concludes with comments on the candidate.
- 5- The deliberations by the members of the jury can occur in the defence room, in which case the audience and the candidate must leave the room, or in a nearby room.
- 6- The jury's decision is pronounced "At this stage Mr./Ms X is awarded the rank of Doctor in ...". Note that the PhD School delivers a '*PhD in Life Sciences, specialisation in xxx*'.

End of the session:

The members of the jury must sign the thesis report and two copies of the minutes (PV). The PV includes the final decision: passed or failed. There is no grade ("mention").

These documents should be sent back to the PhD School (coordinator of the PhD School at the Faculty of Medicine; Student Office at the Faculty of Science) in order to prepare the imprimatur.

For more information on the thesis defence procedures, please see our [FAQs Thesis](#) and the [Regulations](#) of the PhD in Life Sciences.

Once signed by the student and the PI, please return electronically to Stéphanie Morand, Secrétariat de l'École doctorale, Bureau 1036.B, Sciences III, 1205 Genève 4, phd-lifesciences-sciences@unige.ch or to Marielle Fernandez-Hugonin, Secrétariat de l'École doctorale, MIMOL, Bureau A08.2325.A, CMU, 1211 Genève 4, phd-lifesciences-médecine@unige.ch.