

Ph.D. thesis defense (disputation) (Status 19.10.2022)

After submission of your dissertation, you have to defend your Ph.D. thesis publically. This entails a 30 minute presentation of the main results obtained during your Ph.D. project (members and non-members of the university are invited to attend). The presentation is followed by a discussion session, which is only public to members of the university. Finally, a scientific examination with your Ph.D. committee concerning the results of your dissertation and adjacent fields may follow for up to 1 hour.

Organizational regulations of your thesis defense:

- The thesis defense can be in German or English. You may also switch between the two languages. For instance the presentation can be in English followed by a discussion in German.
- Usually, a Powerpoint-Presentation is given for approximately 30 minutes.
- The discussion session is public to all members of the university. Persons from the audience, not belonging to the RUB, are asked to leave the room after the presentation.
- The use of slides, additional to the ones used in the presentation, is not allowed during the discussion.
- After the discussion your Ph.D. committee (first supervisor, second supervisor, third examiner, and chairperson) will evaluate your performance and eventually further examine you non-publically. After the completion of your thesis defense you will receive a preliminary certificate including the final grades of your dissertation and defense.
Grading system: summa cum laude = with distinction, magna cum laude = very good, cum laude = good, rite = sufficient
- The Ph.D. committee may decide that certain revisions have to be made in your dissertation. In this case you will be informed right after your disputation and have to modify the indicated items prior to the official thesis publication at the University library (see separate form sheet). One member of the examination board (announced by the chairman) is responsible for re-checking your modifications.

Lecture room and technical equipment:

- You will find a projector for your presentation in the lecture room. The required equipment is stored in a box at the wall ("Medienschrank"). You will find a key for this box in every institute of the university; otherwise you can borrow it in the dean's office. Please bring your own laptop.
- You are responsible for the technical equipment.
- The lecture room will be open for you 30 minutes before the disputation starts.
- Before your examination day you can practice your presentation in the lecture room. Please contact Ms. Gajda (igb@rub.de).