

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPPONENTS/DISCUSSANTS

Instructions about the general procedure adopted by the PhD course in Clinical and Translational Sciences of the University of Pisa, Italy, for the final PhD exam (PhD thesis defense).

- ✓ The PhD thesis defense is public;
- ✓ The Evaluation Commission is made of 3 members which include: the Coordinator of the PhD Program, a professor/researcher affiliated to the PhD Program, and a professor/researcher external to the PhD program.
- ✓ The PhD candidate has approximately 30 minutes to introduce the topic of the thesis and to present and discuss the most important data he/she obtained during the 3-year doctorate course.
- ✓ At the end of his/her presentation, the PhD candidate is invited to defend his/her thesis answering to the questions of the opponent/discussant. This is an expert in the field of the thesis' subject and is specific for each PhD candidate. The discussion between the PhD candidate and the opponent lasts approximately 25-30 min; both general questions about the background of the study, aimed at testing the candidate's knowledge of the literature in the field, and specific questions related to the experimental procedures and results obtained can be asked;
- ✓ Once the discussion between the PhD candidate and the opponent is over, other members of the exam Commission can also participate to the discussion, if they like.
- ✓ The Supervisor of the candidate is invited to briefly introduce the PhD candidate highlighting his/her personality and the strengths and, if any, the weaknesses of the study he/she have done.
- ✓ In a closed-door meeting, the Exam Commission and the opponents evaluate the candidate's presentation, the work done, the results obtained and how the thesis was written and give a mark to each candidate (sufficient, good, excellent, excellent *cum laude*).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THESIS REVIEWERS

In accordance with article 19, paragraph 4 of the Regulations on the PhD Program of the University of Pisa, in order to be admitted to the final exam, each PhD candidate needs to have his/her doctoral thesis approved by at least two national and/or international Experts external to the PhD Course.

The tutors of each PhD Candidate suggest the name of two nationally or internationally recognized researchers, expert in the subject of the doctoral thesis (reviewers).

The PhD secretariat send the pre-final version of the thesis and the predisposed form to the reviewers at least 3 months in advance the expected date of the final dissertation.

Within 30 days from receipt, each reviewer is asked to fill the predisposed form (see below) giving a mark for the innovation of the study, the clarity, the adequacy of the methodological approach used, the background literature and the interpretation of the data.

The reviewer is also encouraged to provide in the free space of the form an overall evaluation of the thesis and to declare whether it is admissible to the final public discussion. Suggestion, comments, corrections, and criticisms, aimed to improve the final version of the thesis, are very well welcome.



University of Pisa

PhD Course in Clinical and Translational Sciences

Coordinator: Prof. Stefano Del Prato

Date of the final exam

Candidate _____

Tutor _____

Thesis title _____

	Insufficient	Just right	Good	Very good	Excellent
Innovation					
Clarity					
Methodology					
Background Literature					
Data interpretation					

Overall evaluation _____

The Evaluator
