

Graduate Studies in Engineering PhD Oral Examination

Instructions to PhD Candidates

Objective of the Oral Examination

You are to present, defend your thesis and clarify any matters raised by the Panel and oral defence of your PhD thesis. The oral examination allows:

- you to defend his/her dissertation and clarify any matters raised by the examiners;
- the examiners to probe your knowledge in the field; and
- the examiners to assure themselves that the work presented is your own and to clarify matters of any collaboration with any researchers or partner institutions.

Format of the Examination

Audience

The oral examination proceedings may be opened to academic staff, graduate and undergraduate students and members of the public.

Presentation

You will give an oral presentation of the thesis of not more than 45 minutes. You are expected to use visual aids (such as transparencies, powerpoint presentation etc).

The presentation should highlight the objectives and scope of the research project, the methodology adopted and your conclusions and original contributions to the research area.

Oral Defence (Question-and-Answer Session)

In the Q&A session, please bear in mind that all the participants may ask questions pertaining to the subject. Your supervisor(s) may be present as “observer(s)”, without rights to raise and answer questions.

All participants will then be excused. The examination panel will have a closed-door session with you. The panel can ask specific and detailed questions on the subject matter on the thesis and related subjects. You are expected to answer the queries raised satisfactorily.

Panel discussion

After the oral defence, the exam panel will have a closed-door discussion to deliberate on the verdict of the examination. You will be asked to leave the room.

Results

Your oral examination results will be made known to you in due course. Candidates who perform unsatisfactorily may be required to re-take the Oral Examination.