

Final Review: PhD
(Pre-submission Review)

A Final Review is conducted after approximately three years of candidature. At this stage the research should be nearly complete and the thesis writing well-advanced.

Final Research Report:

A report that includes:

1. The title of the thesis
2. A brief overview of the thesis and the main findings to date
3. The proposed thesis structure (a chapter by chapter outline, with a *brief* summary of the content of each chapter)
4. A more detailed explanation of the element (e.g. chapter) presented orally
5. The timetable for completing the thesis and a detailed statement of progress
6. The identification of any perceived difficulties that could impede the completion of the project according to the work plan, and suggestions for overcoming these difficulties within the remaining time
7. A bibliography of references that appear in the report

Any papers that have arisen from the thesis and are being prepared for eventual publication are expected to be submitted. If a document is provided that relates directly to the presentation, then Requirement 4. above can be ignored.

Oral Presentation:

You are required to make a 45 minute oral presentation attended by members of the review panel. The presentation will be followed by 15 minutes for questions and feedback from the members of the audience. (Questions may also occur during the presentation itself.)

The presentation should begin with a brief overview of your thesis and progress to date, setting the context for the rest of your talk. The main part of your talk should be an extended and more detailed presentation of some of your research. In most cases this will constitute the presentation of a chapter/paper that has been written during the candidature. The main content of the presentation is expected to be reasonably distinct from that of the Progress Review.

This presentation should take the general form of an academic seminar, including:

- Motivation for and explanation of your research question, including relevant background
- A clear explanation of any methodological and/or theoretical advances you have made
- The results (whether numerical, empirical or theoretical), including their implications, strengths and limitations
- Plans for extensions/improvements

Giving a good research presentation is an important skill to develop during your time as a PhD student. Consult early with your supervisor(s) to discuss your approach, and allow time for any presentation slides to be proof-read by them. Construct a presentation that does justice to your research efforts so far and helps the audience appreciate your contribution to the research field. Do not assume that your audience is already familiar with your research area in any detailed way or understands why the research problem you are addressing is important. The most advanced modelling techniques,

the most complex theoretical derivations, the most intricate empirical conclusions or the most sophisticated graphics will be lost on an audience if they do not appreciate the nature of your research question and why it matters. You will also have attended a substantial number of departmental (and other) research seminars and workshops by this point. Observe other presenters carefully to learn which approaches work well and which don't, taking particular note of the techniques used by the most inspirational and informative speakers.