



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

REGULATIONS

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Vice-Chancellor

## **Regulations for digital components at the public defence of doctoral theses at Lund University**

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 24 February 2022.*

Pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 35 of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), Lund University has decided to approve the following regulations.

### *General*

The basic principle is that the public defence of doctoral theses at Lund University shall take place at premises provided by the University and all participants shall be physically present. Digital participation in public defences may occur if there is a valid reason for this.

These regulations provide a university-wide framework that aims to achieve a well-functioning and legally sound procedure for the use of digital components at public defences.

In these regulations, digital components at public defences may include live streaming. That is, sound and moving images sent live over the internet that are not recorded or saved.

The quality of the examination must always be ensured.

### *Requirement for the defence of a doctoral thesis to be public*

Chapter 6, Section 33, Paragraph 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance stipulates that a doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally and in public. At Lund University, the public defence of a doctoral thesis shall take place at premises where the general public can attend and ask questions and where appropriate technology is available.

According to the *Regulations for doctoral education at Lund University* 12.1, the public defence of a thesis shall be announced at least three weeks in advance. At the time of the announcement of the public defence of a thesis, the public shall be informed about the location of the defence, the digital components to be used, if live streaming is to take place and, if so, that part of the premises are to be excluded from the live streaming. If the defence is to have digital components, a link to the public defence can, if so desired, be shared with the general public including information about digital participation in the defence. This option does not need to ensure the possibility for online participants to ask questions.

#### *Decisions on digital components at a public defence*

Decisions on digital components at a public defence are to be taken by the Faculty Board following an overall assessment of the circumstances of each case. Decision-making rights can be delegated to the Dean or person appointed by the Dean; however, no further delegation is permitted. Simultaneously, a decision is to be taken on the appointment of substitutes for the members of the examining committee. Decisions on substitutes shall be taken with consideration to the regulations for the qualifications and composition of the examining committee as well as the rules on conflict of interest.

Faculties shall decide on the measures to be taken if the external reviewer and/or examining committee members need to withdraw their participation at short notice. The external reviewer may be replaced by a member of the examining committee and committee members who are unable to participate may be replaced by a substitute in accordance with the above.

Decisions on digital components at a public defence shall be taken following consultation with the doctoral student and the principal supervisor. The doctoral student is to be made aware of the digital components to be used at the public defence. The doctoral student's wishes are to be taken into consideration regarding whether the external reviewer is to participate digitally.

#### *Presence at the final examination*

Public defences at Lund University shall be held at premises provided by the University. If digital components are to be used, the doctoral student and the chair of the public defence must be physically present at the public defence. At least one of the doctoral student's supervisors and two members of the examining committee must also be physically present at the public defence, unless special circumstances apply. Other members of the examining committee, other supervisors and the external reviewer may participate digitally. The member selected as the chair of the examining committee's meeting is to be one of the members who was physically present at the public defence.

The chair of the examining committee is responsible for the examining committee's meeting. If any members participate digitally, a separate digital meeting is to be set up to carry out the examining committee's meeting. A link to the meeting shall only be made available to the members of the examining committee. The link is also to be made available to the external reviewer and supervisor as they must be available for questions from the examining committee or, if the external reviewer or supervisor wish to be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussions but not in the decision, in accordance with the *Regulations for doctoral education at Lund University* 12.2.

#### *Transitional provisions and entry into force*

These regulations enter into force on 1 March 2022 and apply to all public defences organised after the date of entry into force.