

Production and defence of the Doctoral Thesis Proposal

1. Introduction

The academic rules for doctoral studies at the Department of Economics and Business state that students should produce a thesis proposal during their first year of the doctoral cycle that outlines the academic basis, the scientific originality, and the practical viability (resources and time) of the proposed doctoral research.

It is obligatory to pass the thesis proposal once admitted to the program.

The doctoral thesis proposal is a document that consists of a description, explanation, and planning including the academic basis, the scientific originality, and the practical viability (resources and time).

To continue in the doctoral program and to formalise the selection, it is essential to have passed the defence of the thesis proposal.

The thesis proposal has to be related to the areas of research of the doctorate.

2. Supervision of the Doctoral Thesis Proposal (DTP)

The production of the Doctoral Thesis Proposal is done under the supervision of a member of the Department of Economics and Business. At least 3 months before the proposed date for the defence of the DTP, and in all cases before April 15, the student has to inform the program secretary of the name of the professor who is supervising the project (advisor), the title, and the names of the readers.

The tribunal must be made up of three doctors of which:

- (a) at least 2 must be members of the department
- (b) none have supervised the project.

Although it is normal to have a degree of continuation between the project and the supervision of the thesis there can be modifications made between the two phases.

3. Characteristics of the Project

The thesis project must contain the following elements:

1. Title
2. Resume of one page (abstract) in English: objective, interest and originality of the scientific value and possible areas of application.
3. Body of the project: Here you must clearly define the phenomenon that you wish to identify.
4. State of the current research regarding the problem / object of analysis: references required for the most recent knowledge on the subject in a bibliography. It doesn't have to be a historical perspective of the research into the area.
5. Objectives of the thesis: Here you should explain what original value is brought by this research.
6. Relevant theoretical framework (s) with a reference bibliography. (It doesn't have to be a history of the topic, rather a discussion of the theoretical foundations, objectives of the theory, principal tools for analysis, formats of representation of data, etc. It must make reference to the problem or object of analysis.)
7. Methodology
8. Work plan, with an estimated calendar (timetable)
9. Bibliography

The typographical format of the project should be:

- between 20 and 40 pages (and a max of 20 pages of annex).
- word-processed, with a half line space between lines, in Arial 11 or Times 12.
- numbered pages and sections
- bibliography, at the end, ordered alphabetically by author
- quotations in the text should be followed by the surname of the author and the year of publication (and the annotation "a", "b", etc., in the case of multiple authors or years). All quotations must feature in the bibliography.
- notes should be at the foot of the page

4. Delivery of the thesis project

The thesis project is considered to be complete, in the first instance, when the supervising professor sends his confirmation of completion to the secretary of the GPEFM (marta.araque@upf.edu). The student then sends a copy in PDF format to the secretary along with the date on which the defence will take place.

5. Defence and Evaluation of the Thesis Project

Room and equipment will be reserved by the secretary. The secretary will also send the projects to the members of the commission and will post public notification of the defence.

The function of the specific commission is to evaluate the contents, maturity and scientific appropriateness of the project. The commission will give a mark of pass or fail. The recommendation will be communicated via a standard form.

The defence in front of the commission will have the following characteristics:

- It will be public.
- The doctorand will have 20-30 minutes for the presentation.
- The commission will have time for questions and comments.
- The doctorand can then respond to these comments and questions.
- When the commission closes the event to the public they will carry out the evaluation behind closed doors with only the commission, the student and the project supervisor present. It is likely that if modifications are requested, it will be in this part of the defence.
- Following that, the commission will debate behind closed doors and will communicate their decision (pass or fail) to the doctorand and the supervisor of the project (as well as the official communication).

If the project is "passed", the student can be asked to make modifications within a given time span. If the project is declared "failed", the student can return to defend his Thesis project the following year.

6. Calendar Overview

In the first two weeks of April, at the latest, the student must provide the secretary of the GPEFM with the provisional title of the project, the name of the supervisor, and the composition of the commission.

Before June 1, at the latest, the student must send the project to the secretary of the GPEFM. Within the next 10 days the project will be checked to see that it meets the requirements of the GPEFM, and the student and the supervisor will be given the approval for the defence.

The defence of the project can take place throughout the academic year and must be completed no later than June 30.

The month of July is reserved for the completion of paperwork.