



Oral presentation

Students will have seven minutes to present the main findings and contributions of their thesis. Students will be given a warning when they have one minute left. The student will not be allowed to continue their presentation after the seven minutes has elapsed. Therefore, **students must not exceed the seven minute allocation**. Students can choose to present with or without the use of slides. In the presentation students should:

- Outline how their research generated new and important knowledge
- Summarise key theoretical and/or empirical contributions of the thesis

Note: it should be assumed that key members of the defence committee will have already read the thesis. Therefore, it is not necessary to review the whole dissertation in this presentation. Instead, the objective is to highlight the key contributions of the thesis. How does the research feed into theoretical debates; what important empirical knowledge has the research uncovered; how has the dissertation used innovative methods or approaches that offer academic value?

This short presentation should shine a spotlight on the most significant scholarly contributions of the thesis rather than explain everything that was in it. It is imperative that students time their presentation before the oral defence. Seven minutes is not long and so **students should keep the message simple and slides to a minimum**. There will be time in the Q&A to answer more complex questions.

Assessment criteria

The oral defence grade will be based on the student's ability to meet the following criteria, based on the seven-minute oral presentation and the student's answers to subsequent questions from the defence panel:

- Theoretical and conceptual frameworks

- Demonstration of deep theoretical and conceptual knowledge related to the frameworks used in the thesis
- Ability to answer theoretical questions and challenges from the defence panel
- Justification for the frameworks used in the thesis, including justification for the omission of certain frameworks
- Acknowledgement of theoretical and conceptual gaps in the thesis (where appropriate), and explanation of how the student overcame these

- Methodological design and implementation

- Ability to justify methodological choices, especially in relation to the dissertation's theoretical and conceptual frameworks, and research questions
- Acknowledgement of methodological shortcomings of the thesis (where appropriate), and explanation of how the student overcame these

- Contribution to knowledge

- Demonstration of the scholarly value of the thesis in terms of generating new knowledge
- Clear understanding of where the thesis fits in within relevant academic debates

- Structure and coherence of presentation

- Ability to summarise key contributions of the thesis clearly and concisely
- Timekeeping and strict adherence to the seven-minute allocation

The defence panel will convene immediately following the oral defence to discuss the student's performance, and will rate their success in meeting the above criteria during both the presentation and Q&A.