Template (non-binding) for Doctoral Thesis Examiner Reports at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

Preliminary note: Examiner reports play a significant role in the assessment of doctoral degree theses. It is particularly important to establish whether the contents, chosen form and quality of the thesis corroborate that the thesis is scientifically noteworthy and substantiate the ability of the author for independent research work and commensurate presentation of the research results. The purpose of this template is to help examiners to write their reports. It is entirely non-binding. All sections may be kept concise. Reports should be informative and the proposed grade justified carefully and plausibly. Reports that do not fulfil these criteria will be returned for revision.

Any suggestions on how we can correct or improve this template are welcome. Please send an email to: promotionmnf@hhu.de

Doctoral Thesis Examiner Report

<Title>

by Ms./Mr. <First name> <Family name>

Thematic classification

Task in this section: To position the theme of the thesis in a greater overall context.

This section should answer the following questions:

- Which broader problem does the thesis contribute to solving?
- Why is this important?
- Which part of the broader problem does the thesis aim to solve?
- If the thesis comprises several parts or themes, do these parts or themes have a common link? If this is not the case, can the parts be accepted as a thesis?

Thesis content and arguments

Task in this section: Concise description and in particular assessment of the main arguments of the thesis.

This section should answer the following questions:

- What are the main ideas?
- How difficult are the problems that have been solved?
- Are the proposed solutions correct?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the ideas presented?
- Supervisor only:
    - Which of the ideas stem from you in your role as supervisor and were further developed by the doctoral researcher?
    - Which ideas did the doctoral researcher develop independently?
    - Which ideas evolved together?

Quality of written presentation

Task in this section: Assessment of the quality and the appropriateness of the form of the written presentation (in contrast to the quality of the ideas and solutions presented).

This section should answer the following questions:

- Does the form chosen for the thesis suit the requirements?
- Is the thesis structured appropriately?
- How is the linguistic quality?
- Are preliminary work, problems and solutions described in a comprehensible manner?

Publications, patent applications and awards

Task in this section: Overview and assessment of the publications, patent applications and awards resulting from the thesis.

This section should answer the following questions for each publication, patent application and award:

- In which media was work published or who filed the patent application or which body issued the award?
- For publications and patents only: What is the status of the publication or patent (submitted, accepted, published or registered, granted)?
- For publications and awards only: How significant is the medium or award (e.g. impact factor or relative significance for a specific subject or discipline)?

Supervisor only:
If manuscripts with several authors were used in the thesis, please confirm in writing that the information provided about the doctoral researcher's contribution to the content of such manuscripts is credible (§ 6 (3) Doctoral Regulations).
Reports that do not include this confirmation will be returned for revision.

General framework (supervisor only)

Task in this section: To provide an overview of the general framework in which work on the thesis was conducted.

This section should answer the following questions:

- How long did the doctoral researcher work on the thesis?
- Were there personal circumstances (e.g. pregnancy, a longer illness) that should be taken into consideration concerning the length of time spent on producing the thesis?
- Were there other problems that had a negative impact on the doctoral researcher's work on the thesis and for which he or she was not accountable?

Summary assessment

Task in this section: To weight the remarks made so far and justify the final recommendation and proposed grade. If the proposed grade is "Excellent" or "Sufficient", this requires particularly careful justification.

The report ends with a statement on whether the thesis is scientifically noteworthy and substantiates the ability of the author for independent research work and commensurate presentation of the research results. In the case of a positive decision, the thesis must be awarded a grade (Excellent, Very Good, Very Good Minus, Good Plus, Good, Good Minus, Sufficient Plus, Sufficient).

On a long-term average, the grade of "Excellent" should only be proposed for a maximum of 10 % of all doctoral degrees at the Faculty.

Signature

Please sign your report and submit it (preferably digitally) to the Doctoral Office.

As of July 2026