Doctoral Education: Half-time Review[1]

Purpose and Scope

The half-time review assesses the doctoral student's research progress at the midpoint of their studies, based on their half-time seminar performance and any submitted manuscripts or summaries. It is not an examination, but an opportunity to give constructive feedback and guidance for the remaining study period.

Timing of the Half-Time Seminar

The half-time seminar is scheduled once the supervisor and student agree that roughly half of the thesis work has been completed. A typical example would be: one completed paper (submitted or published) for Study 1, one completed data collection with a draft manuscript for Study 2, and a well-developed plan for data collection in the remaining studies. Other scenarios are possible depending on the specific project. By this stage, approximately half of the required coursework should also be completed (around 30 credits), although some flexibility is accepted regarding the exact amount of coursework completed at this point. The final decision on the timing of the half-time seminar rests with the supervisor.

The supervisor is responsible for arranging the seminar and appointing two reviewers (docent or professor). At least one reviewer must be from the department, but both may be.

Procedure

Prior to the seminar, the doctoral student shall provide the two appointed reviewers with copies of any published material and manuscripts produced to date. A brief time plan for the remaining work (including the estimated month of the thesis defense) and a list of completed and planned courses should also be included. The course list may, for example, be provided as a screenshot from the digital Individual Study Plan.

Public Seminar

The half-time seminar takes place on site and is open to all interested participants. It should be announced internally within the department (please send an Outlook invitation), and, whenever possible, also made accessible via a videoconferencing platform (e.g., Zoom). The doctoral student delivers a slide-show presentation of up to 30 minutes, summarizing their research progress to date. This is followed by a question-and-answer session with the two appointed reviewers. After the reviewers have concluded their questions, the floor is open for questions from the audience. A minimum of two hours should be allocated for the entire session.

Closed Follow-Up Sessions

Immediately after the seminar, the following closed discussions take place in sequence:

1. *Joint Discussion* – Reviewers, the doctoral student, and the supervisors meet to discuss the seminar outcomes and progress.
2. *Student–Reviewer Discussion* – Supervisors withdraw, allowing the reviewers and the student to discuss alone.
3. *Supervisor–Reviewer Discussion* – The student withdraws, and the supervisors rejoin the reviewers for further discussion.
4. *Reviewer Deliberation* – Supervisors withdraw, and the reviewers confer privately to finalize their assessment. The assessment form (see table below) is expected to be completed at this stage and submitted to the Head of the PhD Program. Once this step is completed, the reviewers' formal responsibilities in the process are concluded.

[1]Revised after discussions at the Professors group meeting, September 8, 2025.

Reviewer assessment form

Doctoral student

Name of doctoral student Click here to enter text
Title of doctoral project Click here to enter text
Main supervisor Click here to enter text
Date of half-time seminar Click here to enter text

Instructions for reviewers at half-time seminar

We highly value your review, as it serves as the first quality-assurance checkpoint for this doctoral project. Your insights and feedback will play an important role in supporting the project's continued progress. If you have concerns about whether the project can be successfully completed, please respond "yes" to Question 9 and provide your reasoning in the accompanying text, or reach out directly to the head of the doctoral program.

Below, you will find a template to structure your comments and recommendations. This is based on the half-time seminar and any materials provided by the doctoral student in advance of the seminar.

Assessment form

1. The doctoral student: Progress towards realizing the outcomes of a doctoral degree (see last page for criteria) **A. Knowledge and Understanding** Click here to enter comments and recommendations
B. Proficiency and Ability Click here to enter comments and recommendations
C. Judgment and Approach Click here to enter comments and recommendations
2. The doctoral student: Progress towards independence Click here to enter comments and recommendations
3. Doctoral student: Overall performance at the half time seminar Click here to enter comments and recommendations
4. Doctoral education project: Progress and time plan Click here to enter comments and recommendations

5. Doctoral education project: Plans for the remaining doctoral education

Click here to enter comments and recommendations

6. Supervision: Scope and structure

Click here to enter comments and recommendations

7. Supervision: Plans for the remaining doctoral education

Click here to enter comments and recommendations

8. Ethical matters

Click here to enter comments and recommendations

9. We believe there are reasons for the department to perform an extra, or more thorough follow-up of this doctoral student (please give the reasons below or contact the director of doctoral studies at the department)

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

If Yes, motivate here.

Click here to enter text

Reviewer 1	**Reviewer 2**
Click here to enter date, name, affiliation	Click here to enter date, name, affiliation

Mål för forskarutbildningen enligt Högskoleförordningen (1993:100).

Mål (HF 1993:100, bilaga 2)	**Outcomes** (English translation, HF 1993:100)
Kunskap och förståelse För doktorsexamen ska doktoranden - visa brett kunnande inom och en systematisk förståelse av forskningsområdet samt djup och aktuell specialistkunskap inom en avgränsad del av forskningsområdet, och - visa förtrogenhet med vetenskaplig metodik i allmänhet och med det specifika forskningsområdets metoder i synnerhet.	**Knowledge and understanding** To obtain a doctoral degree, the student is required to - demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of his/her research field as well as deep and current specialist knowledge in a particular aspect of this field; and - demonstrate familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with the methods of his/her specific field of research in particular.
Färdighet och förmåga För doktorsexamen ska doktoranden - visa förmåga till vetenskaplig analys och syntes samt till självständig kritisk granskning och bedömning av nya och komplexa företeelser, frågeställningar och situationer, - visa förmåga att kritiskt, självständigt, kreativt och med vetenskaplig noggrannhet identifiera och formulera frågeställningar samt att planera och med adekvata metoder bedriva forskning och andra kvalificerade uppgifter inom givna tidsramar och att granska och värdera sådant arbete, - med en avhandling visa sin förmåga att genom egen forskning väsentligt bidra till kunskapsutvecklingen, - visa förmåga att i såväl nationella som internationella sammanhang muntligt och skriftligt med auktoritet presentera och diskutera forskning och forskningsresultat i dialog med vetenskapssamhället och samhället i övrigt, - visa förmåga att identifiera behov av ytterligare kunskap, och - visa förutsättningar för att såväl inom forskning och utbildning som i andra kvalificerade professionella sammanhang bidra till samhällets utveckling och stödja andras lärande.	**Proficiency and ability** To obtain a doctoral degree, the student is required to - demonstrate a capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis and the independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations; - demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, creatively and with scientific rigour, and to plan and conduct research and other advanced tasks using appropriate methods and within given time frames as well as to review and evaluate such work; - demonstrate through the writing of a thesis the ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge through his/her own research; - demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results, orally and in writing and with authority, both in national and international contexts and in dialogue with the scientific community and society in general; - demonstrate an ability to identify the need for further knowledge; and - demonstrate an ability to contribute to the development of society and to support the learning of others in research, education and other advanced professional contexts.
Värderingsförmåga och förhållningssätt För doktorsexamen ska doktoranden - visa intellektuell självständighet och vetenskaplig redlighet samt förmåga att göra forskningsetiska bedömningar, och - visa fördjupad insikt om vetenskapens möjligheter och begränsningar, dess roll i samhället och människors ansvar för hur den används.	**Judgement and approach** To obtain a doctoral degree, the student is required to - demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity as well as an ability to make ethical judgements in research; and - demonstrate deeper insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual in its application.