

## Thesis Defence

Graduates must defend their thesis to finish their studies and be awarded the MA title. The oral defense allows the students to share their knowledge and research while receiving valuable feedback from supervisors, opponents (reviewers), and defense committee members.

### Before the defence

- 1) After the submission, the candidate's thesis is reviewed by the supervisor and opponent (reviewers). The Faculty assigns the opponent.
- 2) Both **supervisor's and opponent's reviews** will be available to the candidate **in SIS 5 days before the thesis defense**.
- 3) The candidate should read both reviews and prepare for the defense accordingly. Any **objection raised by the reviewers should be adequately addressed** during the defense. Candidates can write the answers to the comments before the defence day and bring them along.
- 4) The candidate should prepare **10 minutes presentation**. A digital presentation is advised.
- 5) The **presentation should be sent to Mgr. Sandra Lábová at least 24 hours** before the defence.
- 6) You will receive a detailed schedule of defence. The assigned time slots **CANNOT** be changed.

## Defence

The overall goal is the public presentation and defense of the master's thesis. The committee has four members (Chair and three academic members) and a secretary. The Committee Chair acts as a moderator and has a final word when a committee is undecided. During the defense, the committee explores, with the candidate, the theoretical framework, research methods employed, findings, and conclusions revealed by the study. Questions about relevant topics from the candidates' courses in Prague can be raised. This way, the defense committee gains more insight into the candidate's research area and knowledge.

**The thesis oral defence lasts 40 minutes, plus 20 minutes for preparation.** Each candidate makes sure to arrive in time for the defense. Morning/afternoon presence is required.

### Defence schedule:

- 1) **Preparation.** Each candidate has time to prepare for the defense. ( 20 minutes)
- 2) **Introduction** of the candidate by the supervisor
- 3) Candidate's **presentation** (max. 10 minutes)
- 4) **Reviews** are read (max. 5 minutes)
- 5) **Defence** and discussion (max. 15 minutes)

When the questioning is over, the student is asked to leave. At this point, the committee will:

- 6) Discuss the defense results and **decide whether the candidate passes.**  
Determine whether the thesis is of outstanding quality. (max. 5 minutes)

At this point, the candidate is called back and

- 7) Informed about the **committee's decision** (max. 5 minutes)

## Presentation

All candidates are highly encouraged to prepare a digital presentation of their thesis. A PowerPoint presentation or pdf format is recommended. The candidate may prepare slides using the information in the thesis's first chapter (Introduction), the thesis overview. The information presented must correspond to the time allocated for the defense presentation. Ensure the internal and external quality of the slides, and ensure the integrity of information and integrity in the appearance of the slides. Slides should be readable and professional-looking. **The time of the presentation is strictly limited to 10 minutes.** Make a repeated trial performance before the defence and ensure the duration is within the time limit.

**The presentation should reflect the following:**

- 1) Title of the thesis, including the presenter's name, department, and date.  
Department or program of study.
- 2) Names of the thesis advisor, opponent, and committee members.
- 3) Statement of the problem: Aims of the study, significance of the research; research questions; brief theoretical framework.
- 4) Method: Provide an overview of the application of particular methods to answer research questions.
- 5) Results and analysis: Slides should reflect graphs, tables or charts demonstrating critical elements of the research findings or outcomes.  
Candidates may include their hypotheses and the corresponding results or analysis.
- 6) Discussion: Candidates should list and discuss salient findings and their applicability to their expertise.
- 7) Limitations of the study and recommendations for future study.

Preparing hard copies of the presentation for each committee member and distributing them before the defense is advised.