



Management Support
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Decision on temporary rules for the public defence of doctoral theses at the Faculty of Engineering (LTH)

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the public defence of doctoral theses at LTH brings a number of complications. Below, LTH management clarifies the basic framework conditions for the implementation of the public defence of doctoral theses in these unusual circumstances. These temporary rules will apply until a new decision is taken.

- Doctoral theses are to be defended in public with the possibility for the audience to attend in person. If the higher education institution were to close completely, public defences would need to be postponed.
- The author of the thesis, the chair and at least one of the author's supervisors are to attend the public defence in person.
- The external reviewer is permitted to attend remotely via video link. Under the present circumstances, the external reviewer can be someone from the doctoral student's own faculty (pursuant to LU regulation STYR 2018/562).
- Examining committee members are also permitted to take part remotely via link. However, departments are to strive for as many examining committee members and substitutes as possible to attend the public defence in person. Local substitutes should attend the public defence, so that they can easily replace a regular member who is taking part via link, should problems suddenly arise.

- One of the examining committee members (substitute or regular) is also to be able to function as an external reviewer if necessary.
- The chair of the public defence is responsible for ensuring that the examining committee's report is promptly signed by all examining committee members.
- It is crucial that the connection via video link functions both during the public part of the defence of the thesis and during the subsequent examining committee meeting. All those attending via video link must be able to contact the chair of the public defence directly via telephone. This is to ensure that any technical difficulties can be addressed. It is advisable to entrust LU Conference with establishing stable connections (book early).
- When new announcements of public defences of doctoral theses are made, at least 2-3 substitutes are to be registered (this registration can be complemented at a later date). As usual, at least one of the examining committee members is to be external, i.e. professionally affiliated outside Lund University.

The present decision applies as of 17 November 2020 and replaces the previous decision taken on 18 March 2020 (reg. no U 2020/254).

The decision on this matter was taken by the undersigned dean of LTH, in the presence of the head of the faculty office Veronica Gummesson, after consultation with a representative of the Engineering students' union at the Faculty of Engineering and a presentation by Katarina Celander-Öhrström, administrative coordinator.