

Thesis Advisors: Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Doctoral Work

The evaluation serves as an explanation for the mark awarded for the doctoral work. The following list of rating criteria should act as a guideline for the evaluation and the list is not meant to be complete. In addition, several of the mentioned criteria are very subject-specific and therefore not universally applicable.

A length of 1-2 pages is usually considered to be sufficient. The evaluation should contain the name of the candidate as well as the title of the dissertation. The evaluation is completed with the allocation of the mark, which is defined as follows:

6	=	excellent (the highest mark should be reserved for extraordinary work [top 10%])
5.5	=	very good
5	=	good
4.5	=	satisfactory
4	=	sufficient
3.5 – 1	=	insufficient

The evaluation has to be dated and signed by the thesis advisor on official letter paper. In case of several authorized thesis advisors, all of them need to sign the evaluation of the doctoral work.

Structure and Possible Rating Criteria

Presentation of the thesis subject

- *Short summary*
- *Position of the thesis work in the relevant research area*

Scientific quality of the doctoral work

- *Fulfillment of the theoretical and/or methodical requirements*
- *Independence in defining the research questions*
- *Creativity/originality of the approach*
- *Quality of the studies*
- *Validation of the studies*
- *Rigor and stringency of the argumentation*
- *Interpretation and discussion of the results*

Assessment of the structure and format of the thesis

- *Thesis sections: Abstract, Introduction, Hypothesis/Aims, Results, Discussion, Outlook/Perspectives, References*
- *Quality of the graphic illustrations*
- *Layout*