



Public defence

at Aalto University

From pre-examination to graduation – overview

- Doctoral student applies for pre-examination
- Doctoral Programme Committee (DPC) appoints pre-examiners and sends the doctoral thesis to pre-examination
- Doctoral students receives the statements and reacts accordingly
- DPC decides about granting the permission for defence, appoints the opponent & custos
- **Doctoral student**
 - prepares the manuscript for printing (Aalto publication platform)
 - takes care of the arrangements for public defence
 - defends their thesis
- **DPC approves the thesis based on opponent statement**
- **Doctoral student applies for graduation in Sisu & graduates**



EN:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/finalising-your-doctoral-studies>

FI:

<https://www.aalto.fi/fi/tohtorinkoulutus/tohtoriopintojesi-loppuvaiheessa>

Finalising your doctoral studies

Information for doctoral students at the end phases of their studies: What instructions there are for pre-examination and defence, how to publish your thesis and what is needed for graduation, etc. This is the third page of the 3-page Doctoral student study guide.

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How to confirm the details for your defence, opponent(s) and custos?

- 1) Permission for defence granted
- 2) DPC to approve the details of your defence, opponent(s) and the custos (at least 6 weeks before the public defence)

Opponent proposal form (307) is available at [Doctoral student forms \(aalto.fi\)](https://aalto.fi/doctoral-student-forms).

Details of the defence include confirming the language, date and time (also mode/location is needed for the form)

Note

- Date and time: must be suitable for the proposed opponent and custos, and there must be suitable lecture hall available.
- Changes to appointed persons or the date/time, language
 - must be made by the Chair of the DPC.
 - Errata page might be needed for your thesis.
 - Make sure changes will not be necessary – but if they are, contact your Doctoral programme's Doctoral education services ASAP!
- Planning the defence mode (and location) well in advance is important.



Public defence at Aalto University

During the public examination of the doctoral thesis, or the defence, the doctoral student defends the results of their doctoral thesis against public criticism and answers questions presented by the opponent, who has been appointed to evaluate the thesis. The course of the public defense is supervised by a custos, who usually is the supervising professor of the doctoral student. During this process the doctoral student is called the respondent. The public defence is also a ceremonial occasion that follows the academic traditions of each field.

On this page you can find Aalto University's instructions for arranging public defences.

EN:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/public-defence-at-aalto-university>

FI:

<https://www.aalto.fi/fi/tohtorinkoulutus/vaitostilaisuuden-jarjestaminen-aalto-yliopistossa>

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Place/mode of the defence

The public defence can take place

- 1) at the premises of Aalto University
 - 2) remotely over an **interactive** online platform such as Zoom or Teams
 - 3) in hybrid form (both on campus & interactively online)
- IT Services offer support for online/hybrid defences, contact them several days in advance.
 - Arrange for someone to monitor your Zoom during the defence.
 - Send the Zoom link to your Doctoral programme as soon as possible (at the latest 15 days before)
 - Check the cyber security instructions for the event

Practical arrangements

- Book a lecture hall and preparation space
- Practice the use of AV equipment in the lecture hall in advance (lobby services can help out)
- Make a plan with custos for how to proceed in case of technical issues
- Check your School's defence protocol / proceedings & dress code ([Schools' protocols for the public defence and post-doctoral party](#))
- Costs: Department covers opponent costs (fee, travel, accommodation), doctoral students covers the possible refreshments for audience and karonkka

Lectio precursoria

- Lectio is a 20-minute introductory lecture on your thesis topic
- Make it interesting and practice it in advance

Public defence announcement

- a concise, plain-language description of the thesis, aimed at the general public and media
- Finnish, English (and in Swedish)
- Submit your announcement text and defence details at least **15 days before** the defence via Webropol form.
- Your School creates an event of your public defence at aalto.fi website under [Events](#). Your announcement text will be included
- Check instructions for writing a good public defence announcement: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/finalising-your-doctoral-studies#8-public-defence-announcement-and-public-display-of-the-thesis>
- **Think of making a press release, too!**

9/26/2023

Defence of doctoral thesis in the field of Film and Television, MA Katri Lassila

Public defences

Image of Landscape as an Intersection Between Film and Photography



Valokuva Tiibetin johtavasta alueesta elokuvasta Jyrkänte (2023).

When

28.4.2023 12:00 – 14:00

Event language(s)

Finnish

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

[Maarintie 8](#)
Lecture hall AS2 (2nd floor)

MA Katri Lassila will defend the thesis "Näkymä ajan ulkopuolella. Maisemakuvaan apokronia ja valokuvallinen affordanssi elokuvassa" on 28 April 2023 at 12:00 in Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Department of Film, Television and Scenography, in lecture hall AS2, Maarintie 8, Espoo.

Opponent: Prof. Annette Arlander, Uniarts

Custos: Prof. Susanna Helke, Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Department of Film, Television and Scenography

What is the meaning of the image of landscape in cinema? Why does the image of landscape seem often to stand still in a film? Working with analogue black and white photography techniques and essayist film, artist Katri Lassila focuses in her dissertation on the image of landscape as an intersection between photography and film.

Public display of the thesis & distribution

- Online display for 10 days before the defence
- In case of article thesis, both the summary and the published and unpublished articles are publicly accessible online.
- Link to the online display of the thesis is included in the public defence announcement. Both must be available to public for at least 10 days before the defence.
- Note: all doctoral theses are public documents and are also available at Aalto University's open access repository [Aaltodoc](#) indefinitely (separately from the public display prior to the defence).
- Each School requires you to hand in a specific number of copies of your printed thesis for the use of the School. See how your printed thesis is to be distributed and how many copies are required: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/doctoral-education/finalising-your-doctoral-studies#9-distribution-of-thesis>

Approval of thesis & Graduation

- DPC decides on the approval of your thesis based on the statement of the opponent.
- You can already apply for graduation in SisU after your defence date has been confirmed by DPC (and your SisU credit plan is approved in SisU).
 - Update your contact information in SisU; remember to add your valid contact information to alumni info and please give us permission to contact you
- Remember to request your graduation in SisU
- Graduation takes place on official graduation dates (once a month), after DPC has approved your thesis.

Remember

- Before graduation, please inform your Doctoral programme of your contact information for further contacts regarding graduation ceremony, ceremonial conferment, thesis awards, etc.
 - CHEM, ELEC, SCI: by filling out the Agreement for graduating doctors
 - ARTS, BIZ, ENG: by email to your programme
- Answer the feedback survey for doctoral graduates (<https://www.aalto.fi/en/news/results-of-the-doctoral-graduate-survey-2022>)
- 3 years after graduation: a national career monitoring survey
- Aalto university incentive scholarships: [Exact conditions and instructions to apply for the incentive scholarships \(aalto.fi\)](#)

Contact us

udes@aalto.fi