

Guidelines for Work-in-Progress and final seminar (December 2023)

The aim of the Work-in-Progress seminars (Avhandling-på-gång) is to be an intellectually stimulating forum at which to present sections of the thesis during the period as a doctoral student. Work-in-Progress consist of three seminars (an idea seminar, a midway seminar and a final seminar). In accordance with the general syllabus, the doctoral student must present their thesis project at these three seminars before the public defence of their doctoral thesis.

The ideas seminar is to be held within the 10 months after the start of the third-cycle programme. At the idea seminar, the main focus is on presenting the research issue of the thesis, but the theoretical framework and planned methods should also be included. The doctoral student is to make an oral presentation of approximately 20–25 minutes, in which the thesis idea is presented. A written draft is to be sent out via the department mailing list one week before the idea seminar.

Commentator at idea seminar: Two fellow PhD candidates will act as discussants; they may be considered as generalists, insiders or outsiders with regard to the project as the key function is to provide introducing remarks that can support and shed light on the project and its different elements (topic, theory, method etc.); an immediate function is to open up the seminar for discussions. The seminar coordinator and the director of PhD studies, together with the presenting doctoral student and supervisors decide on who will serve as discussants. The seminar coordinator acts as a mentor for the commentators; he/she meets up with the commentators before the seminar to go through the comments, and is also providing feedback afterwards. The commentators get 1 course credit/commentator-assignment. A maximum of 3 credits can be acquired through commenting in idea seminars during the PhD programme.

The midway seminar is to take place on completion of about half of the programme (but no later than 30 months after the start of the programme) and allow the doctoral student to present a coherent section from the thesis in progress. The presentation can be on the theory, methodology or an analysis section. The chosen section is to be accompanied by an introductory text in which the research issue, points of departure and methodological considerations of the thesis are presented so that the chosen section can be put into context. Two researchers from the department holding PhDs will be asked to participate in the midway seminar as special reviewers (experts) of the text that is to be presented. The doctoral student is to suggest the two discussants who can be experts on different topics or elements of the project (method, theory...) but also general readers. The text shall be sent out via the department mailing list and distributed to the two commentators two weeks before the seminar at the latest.

At the final seminar at the end of the programme, the doctoral student is to present a draft manuscript of the thesis. The final seminar is organised by the supervisors together with the doctoral student. The manuscript is to be assessed by a discussant from a university other than Lund University. The normal course is also that the internal/departmental member of the doctoral committee provides his/her views on the draft at the final seminar. Discussant and departmental doctoral committee member are suggested by the supervisors and must be approved by the College of PhD supervisors. When the seminar is announced via the department mailing list all interested are offered an electronic copy of the manuscript if they email the author and ask for it. It belongs to the tradition to also put a paper copy in the lunch room two weeks before the seminar at the latest.