



Guidelines for the final oral examination within the IRTG 1273^{*}

1. The examination will be held by a board of examiners consisting of the internal and external examiners together with the supervisor and co-supervisors and one member of the IRTG 1273 Steering Committee who will act as the chairperson.
2. Prior to the examination, all examiners have evaluated the thesis. The chairperson of the board of examiners receives copies of all evaluations and a form for the minutes in order to take the oral examination on record in abridged form and document the grade. The minutes have to be signed by all examiners and returned to the IRTG 1273 secretariat.
3. The examination (in English) consists of:
 - a) a public lecture (25 - 30 min) about the scientific content of the thesis. The public lecture of the examinee may not exceed 30 min. The chairperson will give a signal to the examinee after 27 min have passed.
 - b) Public disputation of the project in order to assess the knowledge acquired by the student on the subject of his specific area of research as well as on interdisciplinary subjects (min. 30 - max. 45 min). During the first 20 minutes only members of the board of examiners have the right to take part in the discussion. The last 10 mins could also be used to answer questions from the audience. The first question will be asked by one of the supervisors.
4. At the end of the examination the board of examiners will retreat to a separate room in order to decide on the grade. The chairperson of the board of examiners will also chair the discussion on the grade.

^{*} in compliance with the "Ordnung für das naturwissenschaftliche PhD-Studium/ Strukturierte Doktorandenprogramme an der Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover im Rahmen der Hannover Biomedical Research School (HBRS)", zuletzt mod. am 09.11.2011

5. Please grade according to the following grading system:

Excellent / very good / good / satisfactory

or

summa cum laude / magna cum laude / cum laude / rite.

In order to get the grade "summa cum laude" four of the five grades received have to be "summa" and the examinee has to meet really high demands.

6. The final mark results from:

the intermediate exam (20 %)

the written dissertation, i. e. the two experts' opinions and the supervisors' evaluations of the thesis (60 %)

the oral examination (20 %)

Variations from the weighting of the marks are only possible if one of the marks is considerably worse as compared to the other grades but the board of examiners agrees that in spite of this the examinee has deserved the better grade.

7. If the candidate fails the final examination, he or she shall be allowed to retake it once, pursuant to a period of at least three and no more than six months as the coordinators' team may decide. Should the graduate student then fail again, he or she shall be deemed to have finally and absolutely failed the PhD examination.
8. The results of the PhD examination will be communicated to the President's office. The graduate students receive their thesis certificate from the IRTG 1273 secretariat.