

## EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AND LICENTIATE THESIS

According to the TKK degree regulations, doctoral dissertations and licentiate theses can be accepted by grading them *pass* or *pass with distinction* (Degree Regulations 60 §). A thesis graded "pass with distinction" must have exceptional merits. This means that the proportion of doctoral dissertations graded "pass with distinction" in the faculty should total a maximum of 15-20% of all accepted dissertations. This also applies to licentiate theses.

When grading a thesis, the thesis should be reviewed as a whole and in relation to other TKK theses at the same academic level. In their existing form, TKK's doctoral dissertations, and article dissertations in particular, are more extensive than in many other European countries, which means that it is difficult to compare them with the thesis of other countries. Four-year doctoral studies constitute the starting point for preparing a dissertation at TKK whereas in many other countries doctoral studies have been limited to three years. In addition, the number of scientific publications required for a doctoral dissertation is different from the requirements of many other universities. The dissertation supervisor should clearly communicate these issues to the opponent.

The "pass with distinction" grade for doctoral dissertations requires that the following criteria are met:

- the dissertation has special scientific merit
- the achieved results are exceptionally significant in the research field
- the articles of an article dissertation have been published in high-quality international scientific series of the research field or, in exceptional cases, other similar works which have passed through peer evaluation
- the author's independent contribution in achieving the results is significant
- the presentation of the dissertation is clear, and the language and the citation in the dissertation is flawless
- no large corrections have been proposed to the dissertation draft in the preliminary examination
- the dissertation has been excellently defended in the public defence.

The "pass with distinction" grade for a licentiate thesis requires that the following criteria are met:

- in the licentiate thesis, the student has demonstrated exceptionally high and critical conversance with the research field in question, and excellent capability to independently and critically apply the methods of scientific research
- the author's independent contribution in the thesis is significant
- the presentation of the licentiate thesis is clear, and the language and the citation in the thesis is flawless.

**TKK instructions concerning the requirements for doctoral dissertation and licentiate thesis:**

Degree Regulations 34, 38, 40 and 41 §:

[http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/study\\_counselling/degreeregulations/index.html](http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/study_counselling/degreeregulations/index.html)

Instructions by the Dissertations Committee:

[http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/doctoral/instructions\\_for\\_dissertations.html](http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/doctoral/instructions_for_dissertations.html)

Instructions for opponents and preliminary examiners of doctoral dissertations

[http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/doctoral/instructions\\_for\\_dissertations.html](http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/doctoral/instructions_for_dissertations.html) > 9. Appendixes

TKK Guide for Doctoral Students

<http://www.tkk.fi/en/studies/doctoral/guidance/index.html>