

Guidelines for Referees of a PhD/doctoral Thesis

MIP Faculty (Mathematik, Informatik und Physik), University of Innsbruck, Austria

Brief outline of the PhD/doctoral scheme at the University of Innsbruck

Candidates typically have 3 to 5 years to complete the work and to submit their thesis. The thesis can be submitted either as a monograph or as a series of a minimum of three articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals or international conferences. In the latter case, they must be integrated into a cohesive unit and be thematically connected. The supervisor supports and guides the student throughout the research process but he/she does not necessarily assess the work. The thesis is evaluated by at least two independent referees and the final mark is derived from these assessments. Please note that the thesis will not be revised after the referees' assessment. The candidate will not be allowed to defend his/her work in an oral defense if one referee marks the thesis with 'unsatisfactory'. The referees' reports will be made available to the candidate, the supervisor, the committee members of the defense, and all professors and teachers holding a *venia* (habilitation) degree in our faculty.

Qualification for a holder of a prospective PhD/doctorate:

He/she is expected to work as an independent scientist by

- (i) formulating research questions,
- (ii) carrying out original scientific research, and
- (iii) publishing in international peer-reviewed journals. He/she has the ability to integrate his/her research within the framework of the respective scientific discipline. He/she is capable of presenting, explaining, and defending his/her work both orally and in writing.

We would like to ask you to write a report of at least two pages including letterhead and signature addressing the following evaluation categories in your assessment

Scientific quality

- Originality of the research
- Importance of the work for the discipline(s)
- Innovative aspects
- Clarity of the aims/objectives/hypotheses
- Appropriateness of the approach and methods
- Interpretation of the results and the conclusions derived from it
- Review of the relevant literature
- For multiple author papers/manuscripts: assessment of the candidate's contribution to the work as indicated in the author contributions
- Selected conferences and journals for the accepted articles

Presentation of the work

- Clarity of writing and use of language
- Correct use of citations
- Quality of figures and tables
- Structure and organization of papers/manuscripts, as well as of the general introduction and discussion

Overall Assessment (based upon the above evaluation categories) including a mark of the thesis according to the following grading system: ‘excellent’ (1), ‘good’ (2), ‘satisfactory’ (3), ‘sufficient’ (4) and ‘unsatisfactory’ (5).