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## 1. General provisions

### Article 1.1 – Applicability of the Rules and Guidelines

These *Rules and Guidelines* (as referred to in Section 7.12b paragraph 3 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW, hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) apply to the Master's programme in Logic, hereinafter referred to as “the programme”. These Rules and Guidelines apply to any person enrolled in this programme in the academic year indicated, regardless of the date on which they commenced the programme.

### Article 1.2 - Definitions

The terms defined in the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) also apply to these Rules and Guidelines. In these Rules and Guidelines, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a) *Examination*: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a component. The examination can be held in many forms; typical forms are: *written classroom exams* (a written exam that takes place in a fixed room during a fixed time under the supervision of the examiner and/or invigilator(s)), *take-home exams* (a written exam that is done by the students at home and submitted before a fixed deadline), *oral exams* (an examination in the presence of the two examiners), *term papers* (research papers written by the students over a longer period of time), *presentations* (an oral presentation in front of the entire class), *homework exercises* (regular homework exercises to be handed in before a given deadline), or others. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. The examination for a course may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination.
- b) *Invigilator*: the person appointed by an examiner to be present on their behalf (and if possible with them) during an examination. The examiner must ensure that the invigilator will not experience any conflicts of interests by performing his or her tasks as an invigilator;

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act.

### Article 1.3 – Principles

In making decisions, the Examinations Board or examiner shall be guided by the following principles, and in cases of conflict shall weigh the interest of one principle against that of the other:

- a) to uphold the quality and selection requirements of examinations;
- b) the efficacy of requirements as manifested in, among other things, efforts to minimise delays for students preparing for examinations;
- c) to show clemency towards students whose study progress is in danger of being delayed due to circumstances beyond their control.

## 2. The Examinations Board

### Article 2.1 – Composition of the Examinations Board

- 1. The Examinations Board shall consist of at least two members. The members are experts in logic. At least one member is external, i.e., a person unconnected to the Master's programme in Logic. Any person who has financial responsibilities within the University of Amsterdam cannot be a member of the Examinations Board.
- 2. The members of the Examinations Board shall be appointed by the Dean on the basis of their expertise in logic.
- 3. The Examinations Board chooses one of its members as chair. External members cannot be the chair of the Examinations Board. The chair shall identify a second member as the vice-chair who shall replace the chair when they are not available.
- 4. The Dean shall request advice from the Examinations Board before appointing a new member.
- 5. A member of the Examinations Board is appointed for a period of three years and can be re-appointed.
- 6. The Dean shall guarantee that the Examinations Board can function independently and with competence.

### Article 2.2 - Duties of the Examinations Board

The duties and powers of the Examinations Board are regulated in the Act. These include determining the rules for the execution of duties and powers and taking measures with regard to:

- a) determining objectively and professionally whether a student satisfies the requirements laid down in the TER with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills required to obtain a degree;

- b) ensuring the quality of examinations;
- c) establishing guidelines and instructions within the framework of the TER as the basis for marking and awarding results in examinations;
- d) granting exemptions from (parts of) one or more examinations;
- e) taking measures in the event of fraud;
- f) appointing examiners to conduct examinations and determine their results;
- g) issuing the degree certificate, with the diploma supplement attached, as proof that the student has graduated;
- h) granting a student permission to take a set of electives, the examination for which will lead to the awarding of a degree;
- i) issuing transcripts to students, including students who have passed one or more examinations but for whom a degree certificate cannot be issued;
- j) granting students admission to the programme, in correspondence with the framework drawn upon in the TER;
- k) drawing up an annual plan and report on its activities.

#### Article 2.3 – Decision period for Requests to the Examinations Board

1. Petitions and complaints must be submitted to the Examinations Board with a letter explaining the reasons for the petition or complaint. A petition or complaint is accompanied by documents necessary for the decision and to which the student can reasonably have access to.
2. Any request to deviate from the curriculum must be submitted in writing, stating reasons, to the Examinations Board not later more than eight weeks before the commencement date of the component for which the replacement is being requested. Such a petition will in any case be refused if the level and scope of the proposed replacement component(s) is/are not at least equal to those of the component to be replaced.
3. The Examinations Board shall take a decision within six weeks of receiving a written request at the latest.
4. An authorised representative shall submit a written authorisation together with a petition or a complaint.

#### Article 2.4 – Meetings of the Examinations Board

1. The entire Examinations Board shall normally meet at least twice per academic year, or more often if deemed necessary by its chairperson. This meeting is closed to the public.
2. The agenda and minutes will be determined by the chairperson in consultation with the members.
3. Advisers may be consulted at the invitation of the Examinations Board. These advisers may attend all or part of the meetings as guests.
4. Decisions of the Examinations Board can also be reached by discussions via electronic mail.
5. In the event of a request or complaint involving a member of the Examinations Board, the matter will be discussed in that member's absence.
6. The Examinations Board shall make decisions by a majority of votes present; in cases where the votes are tied, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

### 3. Examiners

#### Article 3.1 - Examiners

1. The Examinations Board shall appoint examiners on an annual basis to conduct examinations and determine their results.
2. The Examinations Board is entitled to appoint experts from outside the institution as examiners.
3. The examiners shall furnish the Examinations Board with any relevant information requested.
4. Examiners shall be appointed by the Examinations Board in line with the examiner profile described in the UvA Examinations Board Guide 2016, Section 4.1, paragraph 6.

### 4. Examinations

#### Article 4.1 – Dates and times of examinations

1. Written classroom examinations shall be conducted on dates and times that shall be determined and made known to students under the responsibility of the Examinations Board at least 30 days before the commencement of the teaching concerned.
2. Other examinations shall be conducted at dates and times to be determined by the examiner(s), where possible following consultation with the student.
3. In determining the dates and times of examinations, the best effort shall be made to try to prevent examinations from coinciding, where relevant.

4. The set dates and times shall only be modified in exceptional circumstances and if all relevant parties agree.
5. The Examinations Board monitors compliance with the rules set out in paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive. Students may report deviations from these rules to the Examinations Board.

#### Article 4.2 – Deregistering for examinations

In the event that a student fails to appear at the prescribed time for an examination for which they have registered, the examiner shall record this as an unused opportunity to take that examination (by means of the mark of 'no show' (*niet aanwezig*, n.a.), with repercussions for the potential applications of other regulations relating to additional examination opportunities, defined in the TER.

#### Article 4.3 – Order during examinations

1. The examiner determines the order during examinations.
2. Special adaptations of the order during examinations for students with a disability are regulated by the TER and the *Nota Begeleiding van studenten met een functiebeperking Universiteit en Hogeschool van Amsterdam*.
3. Students must complete examinations entirely independently, unless determined otherwise by the examiner.
4. Students must follow all instructions from the Examinations Board, the examiner or the invigilator issued before, during or immediately after the examination. This also applies to instructions issued prior to the examination by way of the UvA Course Catalogue, the component website, or Canvas. If a student fails to follow one or more instructions, they may be excluded by the Examinations Board or the examiner from further participation in the examination concerned, while taking into account Article 4.3.5. If a student is excluded, they will not receive a result for that examination (the mark/final mark will be recorded as 'no show' (*niet aanwezig*, NA)).
5. In case of doubt of the identity of the student, the examiner or invigilator may request proof of identity by means of valid proof of registration (student card) and a valid identity document (passport, identity card or driver's license). Any students unable to identify themselves can be refused access to the examinations.
6. In the case of suspected fraud during an examination, the examiner has to send a written report of the incident to the Examinations Board.
7. For written on campus or online examinations, the examiner shall ensure that sufficient numbers of invigilators are appointed in order that the examination can proceed in good order. In the case of an on campus examination with 50 or more students at least two invigilators are required to be present.
8. For written on campus or online examinations, students not enrolled in the class and students excluded from participation in the examination (cf. Article 4.2) may be refused admission to the examination or may be asked to leave the examination.
9. For written on campus or online examinations, the duration of the examination shall be such that students can be reasonably expected to have sufficient time to answer the questions. Written on campus or online examinations have a maximum duration of three hours.
10. For written classroom examinations, no student may leave the room within the first 30 minutes of the exam. During these 30 minutes, students arriving late to the exam may be admitted at the discretion of the examiner or invigilator. In exceptional cases, the examiner or invigilator may deviate from this rule.
11. For written classroom examinations, the examiner or invigilator decides about the rules of leaving the examination room during the examination. Students who have left the examination room are bound by the rules of the exam and are not allowed to use aids not permitted by the rules of the examination while not in the examination room.
12. For written on campus or online examinations, students are not permitted to use aids such as mobile telephones, laptops and the like or study materials during an examination unless the examiner or invigilator gives explicit permission for this. If specific electronic equipment is permitted for the purpose of completing the examination, the examiner shall set further rules for this. These rules shall be specified in writing on the exam paper.
13. For written on campus or online examinations, in the event of detected or suspected fraud during an examination, the student shall always be permitted to complete the examination. The invigilator shall fill in a report form and hand it to the examiner. The examiner shall inform the Examinations Board. Sanctions may be imposed in accordance with the Fraud and Plagiarism Regulations of the Examinations Board.
14. Oral examinations shall take place in the presence of a third person or have to be recorded. Examiners can only replace a written examination with an oral examination with the consent of the examined student.
15. In the case of a digital classroom examination, students who leave their workstation shall make sure that their screen cannot be viewed by other students in the room.
16. In addition to TER A art. A- 4.13 section 2, the student who takes part in an examination implicitly gives permission for the work made to be included in the database of the relevant program for plagiarism detection.

17. Students are permitted to use the toilet during an examination. The student must follow the examiner's or invigilator's instructions. Students are not permitted to talk whilst using the toilet and are not permitted to be in possession of unauthorised aids. In the case of online examinations lasting at most an hour, an examiner can decide based on weighty circumstances (e.g. the nature of the examination) that it's not allowed to use the toilet. Students must be informed before the start of the component if it's not allowed to use the toilet.

#### Article 4.3.a – Additional rules regarding online examinations

1. It is the student's responsibility to be able to take the exam in a location with suitable conditions and with facilities such as internet connection and hardware and software as specified by the examiner.
2. If the student encounters technical problems during the exam, this must be reported immediately in accordance with the applicable procedure.
3. If the student fails the examination or fails to meet the requirements (NAV) because of technical problems on the side of the student, the student must take the retake.
4. Examiners may decide to include a time restriction per block of questions. Students must be informed in a timely manner about any restrictions.
5. All other programs, browsers or tabs that are not specifically allowed for the exam must be closed during the examination.
6. During the examination the student must remain seated and be visible to the invigilator at all times; with the exception of toilet visits (see art. 4.2.17).
7. The room in which the examination is made should be sufficiently illuminated.
8. In case draft paper is allowed, the student should show the draft paper (both front and back) at the beginning of the examination.
9. In case a calculator is allowed, it has to meet the predetermined conditions and has to be shown at the start of the examination.
10. In addition to article TER A-4.3.2, online oral examinations are not public.

#### Article 4.4 – Assessment

1. Each examination shall consist in the examiner testing the candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills and assessing the results of that test.
2. Examination questions and problems shall never exceed the examination content announced in advance. Examination questions shall be clear and unambiguous and such that students can correctly judge how extensive and detailed their answers should be. The subjects of the questions shall be representative of the whole of the component content. The content and scope of the examination shall be fixed as from the commencement of the component and not subject to any change before the examination.
3. If a component involves a final exam, the examiner is required to post this exam on DataNose within two weeks after the date of the exam, so that it can be inspected by the Examinations Board. (This only applies to components administered by the FNWI; other faculties do not make use of DataNose).
4. The Examinations Board strongly encourages peer-review practices in the preparation of exams. This means that the exam is sent to the Teaching Assistants of the course well before the exam date, so that they can provide feedback to the examiner.
5. The manner in which the examination for each component will be administered will be announced in the UvA Course Catalogue before the component in question commences, specifying:
  - a) the form that the examination and/or resit will take;
  - b) to what extent the different examination components will be taken into account in the final assessment;
6. The Examinations Board shall ensure that examinations are assessed within the time frames mentioned in the TER and on the basis of transparent standards.
7. If more than one examiner is involved in the marking of an examination, the Examinations Board shall ensure that all examiners apply the same standards to their marking.
8. Marking shall take place in such a way that examinees can verify how their examination results were determined.
9. The most recent result shall determine the final mark. Some examination components do not allow resits due to their nature (e.g., homework, presentations, practical work).

10. If practical exercises involve several students making a contribution to a single joint assignment, the Examinations Board shall apply the following guidelines: If in the examiner's opinion one or more students have made an insufficient contribution to the joint assignment, the examiner will discuss this with the student(s) in question. The student concerned will be given an opportunity to expand his or her contribution. If this does not yield the desired improvement according to the examiner and/or if the Examinations Board deems it necessary, the Examinations Board may take appropriate measures.
11. If one or more examination components of a course involve group work, at least 50% of the final mark of each student should be determined by traceable individual contributions of that student.
12. The assessment of the Master's thesis is described in detail in Articles 4.5 to 4.8.
13. Both coordinated projects in January and June and individual projects shall be graded on a pass/fail basis (AVV/NAV). Exceptions to this general rule can be made by the Examinations Board.
14. Grades obtained for courses taken at a university abroad shall be converted to pass/fail (AVV/NAV).
15. Further regulations concerning the assessment of the Master Thesis can be found in appendices A - D.

## 5. Graduation

### Article 5.1 – Date of graduation

The examination date recorded on the diploma is the date on which a student applied for a diploma. The date on which the certificate is awarded may be later than the examination date.

### Article 5.2 – Degree classifications (Iudicia)

1. The Examinations Board assesses whether to add the qualification of *cum laude* to the diploma.
2. This can and shall be done if
  - a) every component is marked with at least a 7 (seven);
  - b) the result for the Master's thesis is at least an 8 (eight);
  - c) the weighted average of all Master's programme components, excluding the thesis, is at least 8.0;
  - d) the student has obtained all grades of the programme within 30 months.
3. When determining the requirements of Article 5.2.2, the mark for each component will be assigned a weighting factor corresponding to the number of credits that the component is worth. Examination components marked with a 'pass' will not be included in the calculation of the weighted average.
4. Exemptions will not count towards awarding the qualification of *cum laude*, unless the Examinations Board decides otherwise.
5. If more than one third of a curriculum is comprised of exemptions or components marked with a 'pass', the qualification of *cum laude* will not be awarded.
6. These *cum laude* guidelines replace all previous *cum laude* guidelines. Students who believe they qualify for a *cum laude* qualification on the grounds of expectations derived from previous guidelines can submit a substantiated request to the Examinations Board.
7. In exceptional cases relating to individual study programmes the Examinations Board may deviate from the provisions of Article 5.2.2 to 5.2.4.

## 6. Exemptions and Transfer Credits

1. The Examinations Board can allow a student to replace an obligatory component with another course. The Examinations Board shall do that if the student provides evidence that they have mastered the material of the obligatory component. The Examinations Board will typically consult the examiner of the obligatory component.
2. A student should apply to the Examinations Board for the approval of credits for courses taken at a different postgraduate programme at the UvA or another university. This is only possible for courses at Master's level that are directly relevant to the M.Sc. Logic programme and only in case there is no overlap with other courses taken by the student. If approved, these courses will be registered in SIS as course replacements, unless the Examinations Board decides otherwise.
3. Transfer credit from universities outside of the Netherlands shall always be registered without a numbered grade (i.e., with the grade AVV). Transfer credit from Dutch universities can be registered with a grade at the discretion of the Examinations Board.
4. If the course was taken while the student was registered for the M.Sc. Logic, courses are generally accepted as transfer credit and treated as if they had been taken at the UvA. In this case, courses from other Dutch universities are usually registered with grades.

5. If the course was taken while the student was not registered for the M.Sc. Logic (typically before they came to Amsterdam), courses can only be accepted as transfer credit if
  - a) they have not been used for graduation for any degree at some other university;
  - b) the content of the course is such that it could be part of the list of electives in the M.Sc. Logic.
7. Courses that have been used for other degrees cannot be used as transfer credit.
8. A student can be exempted by the Examinations Board from the requirement of doing one or more of the obligatory courses on the basis of courses done at other universities, even if they have been used for graduation. This exemption does not count as transfer credit.
9. The Examinations Board can accept up to 36 ECTS credits as course replacements or transfer credits.

#### 7. Fraud and plagiarism

The University of Amsterdam's Regulations governing Fraud and Plagiarism A Student 2019 apply in full to the M.Sc. Logic. These regulations can be found at:

<https://student.uva.nl/log/shared/studentensites/uva-studentensite/en/az/plagiarism-and-fraud/plagiarism-and-fraud.html>

In particular, students will not be allowed to use generative AI for assignments, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the lecturer of the course.

#### 8. Retention periods

Paper versions of Master's theses shall be retained for at least seven years. Digital versions shall be retained indefinitely. For examination papers and scripts, including any assignments and other written materials for which a (partial) mark has been awarded, and for examination results the retention periods are determined by the *matrix bewaartermijnen opleidingsdocumenten DIV* available at:

<https://medewerker.uva.nl/content-secured/az/documentaire-informatievoorziening-div/documentaire-informatievoorziening-div.html#Bewaartermijnen>

#### 9. Hardship clause

The Examinations Board may make exceptional arrangements in cases in which the provisions of these Rules and Guidelines have unreasonable or unacceptable repercussions for the student.

#### 10. Calamities

In case of calamities, the Examinations Board may allow deviations from the provisions of these regulations, limiting as much as possible any negative consequences for students.

#### 11. Appeal procedure

If a student does not agree with a decision by an examiner or the Examinations Board, they have the option of lodging an appeal against the decision with the Examination Appeals Board (CBE) within six weeks of that decision. The appeal procedure is available on the website of the UvA.

#### 12. Amendments

No amendments to these Rules and Guidelines may be made that affect the current academic year, unless the changes are not detrimental to the students' interests.

#### 13. Effective date

These Rules and Guidelines shall come into force as of 1 September 2025.

Thus drawn up by the Examinations Board of the Master's programmes of Logic of the University of Amsterdam, on 3 July 2025.



### Article A – Assessment of the Master's thesis, part I: The thesis committee

1. The Master's thesis presented by the student serves as a demonstration of thorough knowledge of the selected topics and of a solid grasp of the pertinent research methods by the candidate. It should prove that the candidate possesses high-level independent learning, written communication and information retrieval skills.
2. The recommended length for a Master's thesis in the Master of Logic is between 40 and 80 pages, excluding bibliography. For master theses that are defended after January 2025, the maximum acceptable length is 100 pages, excluding bibliography. Theses that are longer than this will not be evaluated. The thesis should be formatted as follows: A4 paper, with 11pt serif font (e.g. Computer Modern or Times New Roman) and at least 2cm margins.
3. The version of the Master's thesis that the student submits for evaluation by the committee does not contain acknowledgements to the supervisor or other committee members. Such acknowledgments can be included in the version of the thesis that is published on the ILLC website.
4. The Master's thesis shall be evaluated by a thesis committee consisting of a chair, the supervisor(s) and independent evaluators. The chair must be a member of the Examinations Board and is appointed as the examiner for the thesis, taking responsibility for the grade.
5. The first step in the preparation for the assessment of a Master's thesis is the assignment of the chair of the thesis committee. It is the responsibility of the supervisor(s) to contact the Examinations Board and ask for the assignment of an examiner. After his or her assignment, the chair of the thesis committee is in charge of all procedural decisions in this committee.
6. The supervisor(s) shall submit a list of potential members of the thesis committee to the chair. It is preferred that this list contains more names than necessary to allow the chair to choose committee members from the list (cf. Article 4.5.7).
7. The chair and the supervisor(s) shall be members of the thesis committee.
8. The thesis committee must meet the following requirements:
  - a) All committee members must hold an M.Sc. or equivalent degree.
  - b) At least three committee members must have a PhD.
  - c) The committee needs to contain at least two independent evaluators. For this purpose, the chair may count himself or herself as an independent evaluator if they decide to take an active role and is an expert in the field of the thesis.
  - d) The strict majority of the committee members should be affiliated with the ILLC (exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Examinations Board).
9. The chair shall choose the independent evaluators on the basis of the list submitted by the supervisor(s). The chair can select none, some or all of the names on that list and add further members to the committee. The chair makes sure that the committee meets the requirements of Appendix A part I.7. The chair does not have to justify this selection.
10. The thesis committee advises the chair in making decisions about failing and passing as well as about the grade. The supervisory team gets a single vote in the discussion. All final decisions about failing and passing as well as the grade remain with the examiner. If the thesis committee is unable to reach a decision, they can report to the Examinations Board and request a decision from them.

### Article B – Assessment of the Master's thesis, part II: Defense Date and Submission Deadline.

1. The members of the thesis committee and the student shall agree on a defense date. The defense date shall be communicated to the programme administrator at least four weeks before the defense. The programme administrator shall book the room for the defense and announce the defense among the members of the ILLC and the students.
2. The date of the defense determines the submission deadline which is exactly three weeks before the defense.
3. The thesis shall be submitted through Datanose; in case of technical difficulties, the thesis can also be submitted by e-mail as a pdf file that is sent to the entire committee with a copy to the programme administrator.
4. The submitted thesis must contain the official ILLC M.Sc. thesis titlepage. The chair of the committee checks whether the formal requirements are satisfied.
5. If the student does not submit by the deadline, the chair can cancel the defense.



6. Before the deadline, the student can request an extension. Extensions are only given in exceptional cases and only if the student sends the request in due time. Very short extensions (a day) can be granted by the chair without consulting the committee. Longer extensions (at most three days) require consent from every single committee member.

#### Article C– Assessment of the Master's thesis, part III: Pre-Assessment.

1. When the student submits their thesis, the chair of the thesis committee checks the Turnitin plagiarism report in DataNose. In case plagiarism is suspected, the thesis committee chair always consults with the chair of the Examinations Board. Pertinent measures are then taken, in line with the Fraud and Plagiarism Regulations of the Examinations Board.
2. All committee members shall send pre-assessments of the thesis to the committee chair at least seven days before the defense. The supervisors shall submit a collective pre-assessment to the chair. Pre-assessments shall contain a grade range and a brief statement about the evaluation criteria (cf. Article 4.7.5). Pre-assessments shall be sent only to the chair, not to the entire committee. If the chair has not received all pre-assessments seven days before the defense, they can cancel the defense.
3. A committee member who thinks the student should receive a failing grade must contact the chair immediately. In that case, the chair needs to check the opinions of all committee members, and if necessary involve the chair of the Examinations Board or the entire Examinations Board. It is not intended to have a public defense in the case that the committee will not give the student a passing grade. If there is no majority in the committee to pass the student, the defense should be cancelled (at least one week before the defense date) and the student shall receive the grade NAV. The student shall get detailed feedback from the committee to revise the thesis in order to pass in a second attempt.
4. After all pre-assessments have been received, the chair shall disclose the pre-assessments to the entire committee. The committee members can have an e-mail discussion before the defense. The chair shall compile the pre-assessments into a draft of the thesis assessment that will form the basis of the discussion of the committee after the defense. The assessment shall consist of a brief comment (one to two sentences) on each of the five criteria and a summarizing paragraph. The text shall not mention any grades.
5. The assessment criteria are:
  - a) *Correctness*. Errors in a thesis can be mathematical or technical errors, historical mis-attributions, improper use of experimental or other empirical techniques, faulty arguments, improper bibliographical work, or, in general, any lack of skill that will be expected of a researcher in the field of the thesis.
  - b) *Writing*. The criterion of writing covers both the technical writing style of the field of the thesis as well as the communication to a wider academic audience, highlighting the achievements of the thesis for a non-specialist readership. The length of a thesis should be related to its scientific content: a thesis that is too long for its content is an indicator for substandard writing.
  - c) *Difficulty*. The criterion of difficulty encompasses aspects such as the mathematical subtlety of the topic, the problems encountered during the work on the thesis, the amount of reading that was required, and in general scholarly and scientific skills that were required for writing the thesis, depending on the area the thesis is written in. The usual time period for writing a Master's thesis is four to six months; having considerably more time than that affects the difficulty of the project and needs to be taken into account when assessing the thesis.
  - d) *Research contribution*. An original contribution to research is not a requirement for M.Sc. theses, but is one of the main criteria for excellence. Contributions are results that go beyond the published literature, possibly even including results that are strong enough to be published in a good journal or a proceedings volume of a selective conference of the field.
  - e) *Independence*. A student can show independence by developing their own research topic, or by taking a topic given by the supervisor and developing it in a novel direction, or by working on a given problem and coming up with new ideas independently. Independence is not a requirement for M.Sc. theses; in fact, in the spirit of scientific collaboration, we strongly encourage close cooperation between supervisors and students in their research projects

#### Article D- Assessment of the Master's thesis, part IV: the defense.

1. The student shall publicly defend their thesis in a *thesis defense*. The performance in the thesis defense is taken into account in the determination of the mark.
2. Defenses can be held on location, with the student and all committee members physically present at the defense, fully online, with the student and all committee members in a video call, or in a hybrid format. In a hybrid format, the student and the chair need to be present on location and at most two committee members join the defense through an audio/video connection. In exceptional cases, the chair can allow a committee member to ask questions *in absentia* by sending them in writing to the chair.

3. The chair can appoint one or more external advisors for the defense. External advisors are not members of the thesis committee, but join the non-public committee meeting after the defense; the chair shall determine in each case what the precise role of the external advisors is.
4. The defense consists of 20 minutes of presentation by the candidate aimed at the general audience and 30 minutes of questions. After that, the non-public committee discussion typically takes between 30 and 45 minutes. In total, between 90 and 120 minutes should be scheduled for a defense.
5. The chair shall introduce the candidate to the audience and keep track of the time during presentation and questions. If necessary, the chair can introduce the committee members to the audience.
6. The question period shall start with questions from the general audience. After that, the chair shall decide on the order of opposition. The larger part of the question time shall be given to the independent evaluators. The supervisor or the supervisors and the chair can ask questions, but are not required to.
7. After the question period, the committee retires to another room or asks the candidate and the audience to leave the room. The committee discussion is not public.
8. The chair shall coordinate the committee discussion, discuss the possible grades, and collect opinions of the committee members about the grades. The chair shall arrange the decision process and as appointed examiner has the responsibility for the grade assigned.
9. After the grade is determined, the chair shall revise the draft assessment text on the basis of the committee discussion and the decided grade. The assessment text shall be fair and honest, reflect the given grade accurately, and shall not avoid criticism of the thesis or the candidate. The final assessment can comment on the candidate's performance in the public defense.
10. After the committee has agreed on the assessment text, the candidate shall be asked to join the committee. The assessment text shall be read to the student, the grade shall be announced, and the student shall have the opportunity to ask questions in private.
11. Then the student and the committee shall return to the room with the audience (or invite the audience back into the room), the chair shall announce that the student has passed, shall publicly congratulate the student, and finally, shall give the word to the supervisor for personal words. After this, the chair shall close the meeting.
12. Both the grade and the assessment text are private information and shall not be made public.