



## Guidelines for carrying out a midway review

The midway review is carried out when the supervisor and the doctoral student are of the opinion that the student is approximately halfway through the thesis work. The midway review must summarise the achieved results including a plan for continued education and is documented in the doctoral student's individual study plan. When carrying out the midway review, the focus should be just as much on the work that is planned as on the work that has already been done.

Three scientifically experienced reviewers with expertise within the field are appointed to the review group. One of these reviewers should be from another department or higher education institution. At least one reviewer should be qualified as docent level or above. The review group evaluates the doctoral student's knowledge and skills, and ability to evaluate, compile, analyse, present and discuss their research. The review group provide feedback of their assessment to the doctoral student and the supervisor to give support for the ongoing work. The review group must also follow up on completed courses, the set literature course, seminars and other activities connected to the education.

The review group must have access to the following documents (no later than 14 days before the midway review):

- Application for midway review.
- The doctoral student's written summary.
- Updated extract from Ladok.
- The doctoral student's current individual study plan, including their research plan.
- Any publications and manuscripts.
- "Guidelines for carrying out a midway review".
- The form "Certificate of completed midway review".

### The structure of the midway review

The doctoral student's examiner is responsible for chairing the midway review. The midway review begins with the doctoral student's oral presentation in English (approx. 20–30 minutes). The review group then asks the doctoral student questions based on the oral presentation and the written summary. The audience must also be given the opportunity to ask questions.

As a guideline, the midway review should last approximately two hours.

### The review group's meeting

In conjunction with the midway review, the review group meets to discuss the doctoral student's oral and written performance in relation to national and local objectives for the degree of doctor, and to give their views on the remaining education period. The review group reports their conclusions orally and in writing to the doctoral student and the supervisor.

Proposed agenda for the meeting:

1. The review group holds discussions individually. (A chair is appointed within the group.)
2. The review group consults with the doctoral student and the supervisor, either together or separately.
3. The review group compiles its assessment and recommendations and presents these orally, immediately after the meeting, to the doctoral student, the supervisor and the examiner.
4. Within two weeks the review group prepares and signs a *Certificate of completed midway review*.



The examiner attends the review group's meeting and provides support with the review process.

## Instructions for the review group

### **The doctoral student's written summary of the project**

Before the midway review, the doctoral student must write a written summary of the project in English. The written summary constitutes a draft version of the future thesis and is approximately ten pages in length.

Comment on both the draft introductory chapter and the attached articles (published and manuscript). Are there any aspects that are not covered in the articles that should be addressed in the introductory chapter? Do the research questions and analyses need to be modified? Is there anything else that needs to be taken into account?

The written summary must include the following parts:

- Literature review of the research field.
- Status report of the research project, including a summary of methods, results and scientific discussion.
- Reflection on the significance of the research project for the research field, including effects on society, ethical considerations, equal opportunities and sustainability aspects, and internationalisation.
- Reflection on and planning of the remaining part of the doctoral education.

The following aspects are included in the review group's assessment of the doctoral student's ability to summarise the project in writing:

- The aim and/or research question(s) are clearly stated and justified.
- The introduction demonstrates knowledge of previous research, and links to the aim/research question(s).
- Methods and results are presented clearly.
- The text is coherent and easy to understand, there is a common thread running through it, and the language is scientifically correct.
- Terms and concepts are well chosen and used consistently.
- The literature review is relevant.
- The reflection on the limitations of the project, the methods and the presented results has sufficient depth. Potential risks in the ongoing work are discussed.

### **The doctoral student's oral presentation of the project**

Before the midway review, the doctoral student must plan their oral presentation of the project. The oral presentation must be given in English.

The following aspects are included in the review group's assessment of the doctoral student's ability to present the project orally:

- The research field is presented clearly and summarised well.
- Research question(s) are stated clearly and justified.
- Methods and results are presented clearly.
- Reflection on the project's weaknesses and/or limitations.
- Reflection on the significance of the results achieved thus far in relation to the research question(s).



- Terms and concepts have a sound scientific basis and are used consistently.
- Ability to take a critical approach towards their own data.

The review group's comments should focus on how the doctoral student deals with these various aspects and should identify areas where there is room for improvement.

### **Assessment of the doctoral student's ability to defend and justify their project, and to relate their project to other medical research and other societal benefits**

The following aspects are included in the review group's assessment of the doctoral student's ability to defend and justify their project, and to relate their project to other medical research and other societal benefits. The doctoral student must reflect on:

- the opportunities and limitations of science and its impact on their own project;
- ethical aspects in relation to medical research and their own project;
- the project's impact on individuals' equal terms;
- the project from a sustainability perspective; and
- the project's consequences from an international perspective.

### **Courses and other credit course components**

Comment on the third-cycle courses, other credit course components and the literature course that the doctoral student has completed to date. Does the doctoral student need to carry out any additional activities?

### **Publications/manuscripts**

Comment on the progression within the work involving the articles. Do the plans need to be modified?

### **Final opinions**

Summarise opinions and justification in accordance with the guidelines and the national objectives. Report any reservations from individual members of the review group here.



## **National objectives for the degree (Swedish Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 6, Sections 4 and 5)**

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate broad knowledge within – and a systematic understanding of – the research field, and in-depth and current specialist knowledge within a limited part of the research field; and
- demonstrate familiarity with scientific methods in general and with the specific research field's methods in particular.

### *Competence and skills*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate a capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis, and for independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, research questions and situations;
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate research questions – critically, independently, creatively and with scientific accuracy – and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to evaluate and review this work;
- with a thesis, demonstrate the ability to make a significant contribution towards the development of knowledge through their own research;
- demonstrate an ability – in both national and international contexts, both orally and in writing, and in an authoritative manner – to present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the scientific community and with society as a whole;
- demonstrate an ability to identify the need for additional knowledge; and
- demonstrate the conditions – both within research and education and in other advanced professional contexts – to contribute towards the development of society and to support other people's learning.

### *Judgement and approach*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity, and the ability to make research ethics assessments; and
- demonstrate a deeper insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

## **Local objectives for the degree**

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate broad knowledge of scientific theory and sustainable development in general, and of medical science in particular.

### *Competence and skills*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate a good ability to relate their own research to other ongoing medical research and, by extension, to clinical application and other societal benefits.

### *Judgement and approach*

For the degree of doctor, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate a good ability to relate to the complexity of medical research, its ethical aspects and its impact on individuals and society.