

## Richtlinien für die Erstellung von Gutachten für die Dissertationen

Das Gutachten kann in deutscher oder englischer Sprache verfasst werden und umfasst in der Regel 1 bis 3 Seiten. Die Gutachter sollten unbefangen sein und im Wesentlichen folgende Elemente der Dissertationsschrift kommentieren:

1. Aktualität und Stringenz der Literaturübersicht im Kontext der Forschungslücken und der Forschungsfrage
2. Verwendete Methoden
3. Bedeutung der Ergebnisse
4. Relevanz der Diskussion
5. Allgemeine Beurteilung der Dissertationsschrift

Abschliessend sollte der/die Gutachter/in der Medizinischen Fakultät der Universität Basel einen Notenvorschlag erstellen (1.0-3.5: ungenügend, 4.0: genügend (rite), 4.5: befriedigend (bene), 5.0: gut (cum laude), 5.5: sehr gut (magna cum laude), 6: hervorragend (summa cum laude)) und die Annahme resp. Ablehnung der Dissertation beantragen. Bei der Bestnote 6 wird zusätzlich eine Begründung für die ausserordentliche Leistung im Umfang von 150 bis 250 Wörtern verlangt. Im Anhang befinden sich die dazugehörigen Beurteilungskriterien. Der Promotionsausschuss der Medizinischen Fakultät dankt den Gutachtern für ihre Bemühungen.

## Guidelines on how to write an expert's report for a PhD thesis

The report can be written in German or English and should be 1 to 3 pages long. The expert should be unbiased and is expect to comment on the following items:

1. Quality of the literature review regarding the gaps in the state of the art and the research aims/hypotheses.
2. Appropriateness of research methods
3. Significance of the results
4. Relevance of the discussion within the state of science as well as limitations
5. Overall judgment of the PhD thesis

Finally the expert suggests a grade to the medical faculty of the University of Basel according to the Swiss grading system (1.0-3.5: failed, 4.0: sufficient, 4.5: satisfactory, 5.0: good, 5.5: very good, 6: excellent) and requests the acceptance or the rejection of the PhD thesis. If the excellent grade 6 is suggested, an additional statement is required to justify the extraordinary performance (150-250 words). Assessment criteria are listened in the appendix.

The Board of Graduate Studies of the medical faculty thanks the experts for their time and effort.

## Appendix

### Evaluation of written dissertation and dissertation defense

#### Written Dissertation (2/3 of final grade)

1. Clarity of research objective and hypothesis with respect to state of science (i.e. Literature review and proper analyses of gaps in literature)

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2. Originality and innovation of the PhD project

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3. Suitability and appropriateness of used methods and comprehensive reporting of methods

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4. Quality and consistency in reporting the results

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5. Appropriate and state-of-the-art statistical analysis or other analysis methods

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6. Argumentation and discussion of the results within the state of science

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7. Scientific writing quality (readability, accuracy, terminology, form and style, structure and layout)

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8. Appropriateness and quality of table and figures (readability, form and style, structure and layout)

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9. Implications for practice or further translational work

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10. Clear statement of own (and co-author) contributions to the PhD project (autonomy and independence of the PhD student)

#### Oral Examination (1/3 of final grade)

1. Clarity of presentation (structure, slides, consistency, comprehensibility, time management)

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2. Quality of discussion

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3. Mastering the topic of interest

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4. Level of engagement in scientific discourse

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5. Competence as a researcher (critical attitude, creativity, etc)

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6. Professional conduct (professional appearance, body language, accurate use of language)

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