

Online course

Thesis Defense Training

Target group	PhD students in their final year
Course description	<p>In their thesis defense, doctoral students have to present their research to a board of examiners and then answer critical questions. This course is designed to prepare doctoral students optimally for this situation. In the first part of the course the participants get practical tips for their introductory presentation: how to structure the presentation, how to build up the central argument, what language to use, etc. The second part of the course addresses problems that can occur during the discussion. We look at various types of difficult questions and discuss strategies that the participants can use to respond to them. In the third part, participants get the chance to practice their presentation and to receive feedback from the group and from the trainer.</p>
Objectives	<p>The participants...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• give a convincing and well-structured presentation• deal confidently with counter arguments and critical questions• are well prepared and feel confident about their thesis defense
Methods	<p>All contents are developed interactively, and they are applied directly to the participants' research topics.</p>
One-on-one session with the trainer	<p>In our online courses the participants get the chance to sign up for an individual meeting with the trainer after the course, in which they can get feedback and discuss parts of their thesis defense presentation, e.g. the introduction or the argument structure.</p>
Format and software	<p>For the course sessions we use Zoom. In addition, we set up a course page in Moodle where course materials and various exercises are provided for the participants.</p>
Duration	<p>1st day, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. / 2nd day, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. plus individual discussions after the course</p>
Group size	<p>Max. 10 participants</p>

In-house course

Thesis Defense Training

Target group	PhD students in their final year
Course description	<p>In their thesis defense, doctoral students have to present their research to a board of examiners and then answer critical questions. This course is designed to prepare doctoral students optimally for this situation. In the first part of the course the participants get practical tips for their introductory presentation: how to structure the presentation, how to build up the central argument, what language to use, etc. The second part of the course addresses problems that can occur during the discussion. We look at various types of difficult questions and discuss strategies that the participants can use to respond to them. In the third part, participants get the chance to practice their presentation and to receive feedback from the group and from the trainer.</p>
Objectives	<p>The participants...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• give a convincing and well-structured presentation• deal confidently with counter arguments and critical questions• are well prepared and feel confident about their thesis defense
Methods	<p>All contents will be developed interactively, and they will be applied directly to the participants' topics. All participants are given the opportunity to simulate parts of their disputation.</p>
Duration	2 days, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Group size	Max. 10 participants