

## **Routine for oral examination for HGO4090 and HGO4080**

06.10.2021

Revised at Program Council meeting 13.10.2021

Oral examinations for the master thesis in Human Geography can take place on alternative forms: on site in campus, hybrid or digital. The choice of form depends on the availability of examiners in terms of travel distance (ref. ISS guidelines for climate-friendly activity).

The oral examination usually lasts around 45-60 minutes, depending on the dynamic of the discussion. We schedule for 1,5 hours in order to give room for potential delays, complications or eventualities.

The oral examination starts with the examiners welcoming the student and introducing themselves. The examiners give an overview of the proceedings:

- Brief account of the thesis, including general feedback on strengths and/or point for further discussion, followed by a round of questions to lead a conversation and exchange.
- At the end of the discussion, the student will be invited to step out of the room for a moment while the examiners evaluate the performance and decide on the final grade for the thesis.
- The student is to be informed that she/he can take notes, ask to repeat a question or clarify, and take a moment to think before answering.

Students can request to know the grade awarded to their master thesis at the beginning of the oral examination. Unless explicitly requested by the student, the oral examination will proceed and the grade for the master thesis be announced first at the end of the oral examination (see below).

The oral examination is a formal event, but the discussion should invite to good exchange of ideas in a relaxed and positive setting. Students are usually nervous, some more than others; as examiners it is our responsibility to create the conditions in which the student feels secure and listened to. Independent of the grade, we want the oral examination to be a positive experience for our students.

When the discussion is over, the student will be invited to leave the room so that the examiners can evaluate the performance and decide on the final grade. When the student is back, the final grade for the thesis and oral examination will be announced along with the original grade awarded to the master thesis (the one set before the oral examination). An explicit oral explanation of the grade is to be provided by the examiners, in accordance with [UiO regulations](#). The student should be given the opportunity to ask questions and takes notes if they wish.

The oral examination concludes by congratulating the student with the completion of his/her masters' degree.