

GUIDELINES ON EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION TOPIC PROPOSAL

Subject:

Postgraduate study program: (the title of program)

TO THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

At the session held on (the day), the Faculty Council of the School of Medicine appointed the Dissertation Proposal Expert Committee to evaluate: (the title of the dissertation) by (first and last name of the candidate).

Information on the candidate: (biographical note)

REPORT

In case of a topic proposal for a classic monograph doctoral dissertation, the Expert Committee evaluates the following elements:

- Research background (Is the problem clearly defined and are the most recent references cited?),
- Research hypothesis and aim (Are there clearly asked questions – aims, and clear answers to the questions asked – hypotheses),
- Material and methods (Does the proposal contain an elaborated work plan and research methods?),
- Expected scientific contribution (What is the scientific novelty of the research?),
- References.

In case of a topic proposal for a dissertation based on a systematic review, the Committee evaluates the following elements:

- Is the proposal well-argued with respect to the importance of the investigated topic and aims that the review article will answer to?,
- Is it obvious from the review of previous research and knowledge on the proposed problem that there have been no previous attempts at a systematic review of this topic?,
- Is the detailed protocol for the planned systematic review provided (inclusion and exclusion criteria, types of studies that will be included in the systematic review, observed interventions, planned comparisons, outcome measures, literature search strategy, and data collection form),
- Does the proposal contain the print-out of the accepted protocol from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (if the systematic review is developed within the Cochrane Collaboration),
- Estimated scientific contribution,
- References.

In case of a topic proposal for an article-based dissertation, the Committee evaluates the following elements:

- Is the previous research and knowledge on the proposed problem presented, with a special emphasis on the candidate's research?,
- Are the problem and aim of the compiled research papers clearly described?,
- Is the candidate's assessment of the overall scientific contribution of compiled research articles clearly presented?,
- Does the proposal contain the copies of the articles that are compiled in the dissertation?,
- Summary of the pooled results.

The recommendation (a short report with the recommendation to accept, reject or return for revision. If the topic should be revised, the Committee specifies what needs to be changed in the proposal).

The Expert Committee:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.