

Doctoral Programme

Guidelines for Paper-Based Theses

These are general guidelines for paper-based theses at the Graduate Institute.

Please refer to the specific paper-based theses guidelines from your study programme (as available).

Each department has the option to offer their PhD students a doctoral thesis in the form of 3+ essays.

For PhD candidates from departments that offer this option, the general guidelines below will apply:

- The PhD thesis must consist of at least three papers, which must either be published or be considered of publishable quality in refereed journals ranked A or B on the Graduate Institute's lists (please consult the departments).
- At least one of the papers must be a single authored.
- In the case of co-authored papers, the doctoral candidate will submit a separate note about the nature and extent of his personal contribution to the paper(s), which will be signed by the co-authors. The PhD candidate's own contribution to co-authored papers shall be substantial.
- External PhD committee members shall not be co-author of any of the papers presented at the PhD defence. If the PhD supervisor or co-supervisor has co-authored a paper, they should write an evaluation report and attend the oral defence, but will not participate in the deliberation nor in the grading decision. In such cases, the department head will appoint another faculty member (who did not co-author any of the papers) to serve as additional committee member, taking part in the deliberation and grading.
- The Guidelines for preliminary thesis defence (MPT) apply to paper-based theses, *mutatis mutandis*. Even in cases when the MPT focuses primarily on one paper only, the PhD candidate is expected to provide an overview of the research contemplated in relation to each of the papers.

Approved by the Academic Committee on 5th December 2023