

Midway seminar and report

Cecilia Akselsson, 2019-09-19, updated 2024-12-06

The midway seminar takes place when the student has completed approximately half of the total research period. The department representative (IR) is responsible for ensuring that the midway seminar takes place at this time, and is the examiner. The main supervisor is responsible for setting up the seminar. The midway seminars are normally part of the Thursday seminar series at INES.

The main supervisor is responsible for finding an opponent, who is not part of the research team. It can be someone from INES, from another department at LU or from another University. If the research area covers more than one discipline, two opponents could be involved. The main supervisor is also responsible for finding a date suitable for the PhD student, the main supervisor, the IR (examiner) and the opponent. It is also strongly recommended that also the co-supervisor(s) attend the seminar. The date should be planned together with the responsible person for the Thursday seminars and the Director of studies.

The report

The PhD student should prepare a short report (ca 10-15 pages), with material that describes the completed, on-going and planned research. The following should be included:

- (1) Short introduction that puts the work into perspective
- (2) Research issue/hypotheses
- (3) Short description of the methods used and the study area
- (4) Achieved results for the different subprojects, and plans for the projects that haven't been started
- (5) Time plan for the remaining two years (including plan for publications and for remaining courses to be completed)

Accepted papers and paper drafts in their last stages (submitted/close to submission) should be attached and referred to in the report. The material must be sent to the opponent and the IR (examiner) at the latest one week before the seminar. It should also be uploaded at \\fileserv\transit\Half_time_seminars.

The seminar

The seminar structure is as follows:

- A 20 minutes presentation by the PhD student, following a similar structure as the report
- Questions from the audience (max 10 minutes)
- 5 minutes break (where the Thursday seminar formally ends)
- Discussion between the opponent(s) and the PhD student, led by the opponent(s). The length of this discussion is flexible, but 20-40 minutes is common.

The first part of the seminars (before the break) is moderated by the responsible person for the Thursday seminar series. The second part (after the break) is moderated by the main supervisor.

The PhD student gets 1.5 course credits for the midway seminar. The IR is the examiner, and is thus responsible for writing the "course certificate" for the midway seminar.