

Midway seminar

Cecilia Akselsson, 2019-09-19

The midway seminar takes place when the student has completed approximately half of the research studies. 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 part of the Thursday seminar series at INES, and thus always occur on Thursdays, starting 13:15.

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 PhD student should prepare a written description of the completed and planned research, based on existing material (research plan, articles, posters, results, manuscripts, etc.). The description is to be available to the opponent, the IR (examiner), and the department at the latest one week before the seminar, at \\fileserv\transit\Half_time_seminars. If the opponent is external, the report has to be sent to him/her by the PhD student one week before the seminar.

The seminar structure is as follows:

- A 20 minutes presentation by the PhD student
- 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.

An example of how the outline for the presentation by the PhD student can look like is given below:

- Introduction and research issue, hypotheses*
- Material & methods*
- Achieved results*
- Plan for the remaining work*
- Publication plan (what is/will be published)*

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.