

The defense of the dissertation

The defense of the dissertation shall be held at the dissertation committees established by the Commission in scientific institutions and organizations, higher education institutions.

In case the relevant dissertation committee on a speciality does not exist, the Commission can establish a one-time dissertation committee on the base of the motion of the scientific institution or organization, higher education institution.

The dissertation committee shall decide on the organization of the defense of the dissertation within four months from the date of submission of the dissertation and documents.

A copy of the dissertation and abstract submitted to the dissertation committee shall be given to the library of the scientific institution or organization, higher education institution where the committee operates, for being protected by copyright at least one month prior to the defense day, electron versions of dissertations and abstracts shall be added to the official websites of the same scientific institution or organization, the higher education institution, the Commission.

The defense of the dissertation should be of a scientific nature and should be conducted in a highly demanding, principled and ethical manner. Issues related to the integrity and justification of all the results of the dissertation, scientific and theoretical- practical proposals must be discussed in detail.

The defense of the dissertation, as a rule, shall be held in Azerbaijani. The defense of the dissertation can be held in another language by providing a simultaneous interpretation on base of the decision which is adopted with a majority of votes by the members of the dissertation committee and official opponents in an open ballot.

After the defense of the dissertation finished, the dissertation committee shall hold a secret ballot.

The dissertation committee after making a positive decision on the results of the defense, shall submit the documents compiled in the manner prescribed by the Commission for the applicant to obtain a degree, a copy of the dissertation and their electronic versions to the Commission within two months period.

In case the dissertation committee makes a negative decision on the result of the defense, the dissertation can be resubmitted for processing again after preliminary discussion, not being earlier than one year from the date of that decision.

The applicant can suspend the examination process of the dissertation with a written application at any stage before the secret ballot starts.

When the applicant applies to the dissertation committee to suspend the examination of the dissertation, the chairperson of the dissertation committee shall decide on giving other submitted documents back to him/her, with keeping a copy of the application, dissertation and synopsis in the dissertation committee.

If it is detected that the applicant uses the materials of other authors without reference to the author and source, the dissertation committee, regardless of the stage of the examination of the dissertation, suspends the examination of the dissertation without granting the right to re-defense of that dissertation. In this case, the applicant's application to suspend the examination of the dissertation is

not accepted, the dissertation and synopsis together with the decision of the dissertation committee shall be sent to the Commission with the relevant letter.

Awarding a scientific degree

The issue of awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be considered by the Board of the Commission and a decision is made.

The decisions of the Board shall be adopted by an open ballot with the two-thirds majority of votes of the members participating in meetings and formalized with the order of the chairperson of the Commission.

The expert councils in various fields of science shall be established under the Commission to give advice to the Commission on the control over the compliance of dissertations and documents with existing requirements.

When the applicant being invited to the expert council of the Commission does not come to the meeting for no good reason within two months, the Commission suspends the examination of the dissertation and give it back to the scientific institution or organization that puts forward a motion, higher education institution or the dissertation committee where the defense is held.

The dissertation and documents submitted for the award of a scientific degree by the Commission shall be considered within three months from the date of receipt; In case additional time is required for the examination of dissertations and documents, the Commission may extend this period up to 3 (three) months.

The period of consideration of documents does not include July and August of the year.

Correcting any detected flaw in the dissertation, abstract and other documents submitted to the Commission for a scientific degree is not allowed.

Until the decision on awarding the degree is made by the Commission, the applicant has the right to suspend the examination of the dissertation at any stage.

The decision of the Commission to suspend the examination of the dissertation on the basis of the applicant's application is final.

Following the suspension of the dissertation examination and the decision of the Commission to refuse to award the degree, that dissertation as a new work can be resubmitted at least one year later after preliminary discussion.

If the Commission detects the use of the materials of other authors by the applicant without referencing to the author and source in his/her dissertation, synopsis and published works that reflect the main scientific results of the dissertation, regardless of the stage of review, the examination of the dissertation and documents shall be suspended without granting the right to re-defense on the same topic and dissertation. In this case, the applicant's application to suspend the examination of the dissertation is not accepted and his/her dissertation and documents shall be kept in the Commission.

Revocation of a scientific degree and restoration of a scientific degree

The Commission decides on revocation of a scientific degree in the following cases:

1. when the defense procedure is violated;
2. when scientific plagiarism is detected;
3. when scientific ethics are violated.

Documents submitted to the Commission for revocation of a scientific degree and restoration of a scientific degree shall be considered within six months from the date of receipt of the application. In cases where additional time is required for the examination of documents, the Commission may extend this period to three months.

The issue of revocation of a scientific degree (restoration of a scientific degree) shall be considered in the presence of that person in the expert council. If the person concerned does not attend the meeting for no good reason, the issue of revocation of a scientific degree (restoration of a scientific degree) may be considered without his / her participation.

If the Commission detects the grounds for revocation of a scientific degree (restoration of a scientific degree), it shall consider the issue on its own initiative.

Revocation of a degree shall not be considered after ten years from the date of award of the degree.

The official opponents

Three official opponents (at least one of them should be a Doctor of Sciences) holding a Doctoral degree are appointed.

When the topic of the dissertation covers two specialties, for one of the specialties one official opponent (a Doctor of Sciences), for another speciality two official opponents are appointed.

- The official opponents should not represent the same institution.
- One of the official opponents can be a member of the defense committee.
- The members of the expert council can only be appointed as official opponents with the consent of the Commission.

Written opinions of the official opponents must be submitted to the dissertation council minimum 10 days before the defense day, the copy of the opinions must be submitted to the applicant within that period.

Participation of the official opponents in the defense of the dissertation is mandatory. In exceptional cases, only one of the official opponents who gives a positive opinion shall be allowed not to participate in the defense. In this case, the opinion of that official opponent is read in the meeting of the dissertation committee.

The dissertation is defended even if the opinions of official opponents of the dissertation are negative.

Who can not be opponents: The chairperson and members of the Presidium of the Commission; The collobarates of the Commission Office; The chairpersons of the dissertation committee, deputy chairpersons and scientific secretaries; The supervisor of the applicant; The co-authors of the scientific works of the applicant; The collobarates of the department, laboratory where the applicant works or

the dissertation is conducted, and the chairpersons of the institution; The chairpersons of expert council, the deputy chairpersons; Persons whose activity in awarding scientific degrees having been restricted by the Commission