# Preliminary recommendation for PhD dissertation

**Name of the author:**

*[Write the name of the PhD student]*

**Title of the PhD dissertation:**

*[Write the name of the title of the PhD]*

**Composition of the assessment committee:**

Assoc. Prof. *[Write your title and name]* (chair of the committee)

Aarhus University, Denmark

Prof. *[Write the title and name of assessment committee member #1]*,

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*

Prof. *[Write the title and name of assessment committee member #2]*,

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*

**Main supervisor:**

Assoc. Prof. *[write the title and name of main supervisor]*,

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*

The main supervisor has been involved in the assessment committee’s work but without voting rights.

**Co-supervisors:**

Assoc. Prof. *[write the title and name of main supervisor]*,

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*

*No pre-defense was held.*

**The dissertation format:** *(Instruction: select either a collection of articles or a monography)*

Collection of articles (*[write the number of articles]* articles) or Monography

**The structure of the dissertation:** *(Instruction: adjust according to the structure of the thesis)*

Abstract in Danish and English, Chapter 1) Introduction, Chapter 2) Theoretical Background, Chapter 3) Research Design, Chapter 4) Research Findings, Chapter 5) Discussion, Chapter 6) Conclusion, References, appendix.

***Paper XX and paper XX are published in collaboration with others and paper XX is submitted in collaboration with others.***

*Paper I:*

Title: *[Write the title of the paper]*

Publication status: *[published, submitted, in review]*

*[write the full reference of the paper if published]*

*Paper II:*

Title: *[Write the title of the paper]*

Publication status: *[published, submitted, in review]*

*[write the full reference of the paper if published]*

*Paper III:*

Title: *[Write the title of the paper]*

Publication status: *[published, submitted, in review]*

*[write the full reference of the paper if published]*

*Paper IV:*

Title: *[Write the title of the paper]*

Publication status: *[published, submitted, in review]*

*[write the full reference of the paper if published]*

*Paper V:*

Title: *[Write the title of the paper]*

Publication status: *[published, submitted, in review]*

*[write the full reference of the paper if published]*

Number of pages including appended papers/appendix: *[write the total number of pages]*

Number of pages without appended papers/appendix: *[write the number of pages]*

**Presentation of the topic of the dissertation**

*(Instruction: write approximately 300 words, some suggestions are provided below for inspiration. Adjust and remove)*

*“The PhD thesis “XXX XXX” consists of X chapters with an Introduction, Theoretical Background, Research Design, Research Findings, Discussion and Conclusion – all together XX pages including references. Further, XX number of papers are part of the thesis, where X is published as a journal article, and X is submitted, X are published proceeding papers. [PhD Author’s name] is the main author of X articles, and single author on X articles.”*

*“In the PhD thesis, [the author] proposes a research objective: “XXX”. The novelty of this research focus is mainly related to the XXX of XXX. It proposes X research questions for each of the domains of the thesis. X of these revolve around X, which in the thesis is used as a X and addresses X.”*

**Description of strengths and weaknesses of the dissertation**

*(Instruction: write approximately 250 words, some suggestions are provided below for inspiration. Adjust and remove)*

*“The PhD dissertation is well written, but it is not without technical error. The assessment report and the following sections are based on…”*

*(Instruction: select the following evaluation approach – should be decided by the assessment committee)*

1. The whole thesis (the assessment report covers a combined evaluation of a)The scientific contribution of the dissertation, b)The research results, c)Theoretical background, and d)Methodology)

Or

1. Single chapters of the thesis (the assessment report covers an evaluation of each chapter separately)

*(Instruction: provide an overview of strengths and weaknesses. The listed items below are for inspiration. Adjust and remove)*

*Strengths:*

* *Novel academic/industrial domain explored by relating the X in the X stage of X.*
* *Provide new conceptual knowledge and develop designs for guiding the X.*
* *Cross-disciplinary solution development and testing.*
* *Traditional structure with sequential logic and well unfolded.*
* *Provides a good overview of the state-of-the-art in the domain.*
* *Applies several research methods, which is appropriate given the systemic and pre-paradigmatic nature of the research.*
* *Show progression in the research process and collaborative skills through co-authoring and the quality of papers.*

*Weaknesses:*

* *The comprehensive introduction appears repetitive of the content of the papers and provides limited independent new insight.*
* *Only to a limited degree does it supply an overall structure to the work, which connects and integrates the different inputs in terms of methodological approach, theoretical foundation or bringing findings together around X.*
* *Research positioning: It aims to contribute to several disciplines and draws on multiple theoretical lenses, this could be an advantage if we could more clearly see the new insights derived from cross-pollination.*
* *Methodological motivation and rigor should have been discussed in more depth.*

(Instruction: The following outline is in accordance with the evaluation approach “1)The whole thesis”. If the evaluation approach “2)Single chapters of the thesis” is selected, ensure to provide an assessment of 300-400 words for each chapter).

**The scientific contribution of the dissertation**

*(Instruction: write approximately 300-400 words)*

**The research results**

*(Instruction: write approximately 300-400 words)*

*“The candidate has written a comprehensive thesis on X. It is an ambitious piece of work with several studies and X papers. The thesis aims to provide new conceptual knowledge and develop X. These aims are timely and highly relevant. First, it provides an understanding of X and then investigates how X. The research provides some information about X, but less so in terms of in-depth understanding of X and guidance for X. This may partly be due to the early stage of X.”*

**Theoretical background**

*(Instruction: write approximately 300-400 words)*

**Methodology**

*(Instruction: write approximately 300-400 words)*

*“The research is executed in X phases in several studies. There is an emphasis on X while contributing to academic knowledge.”*

*“The thesis subscribes to a X approach and the appropriate elements of the X approach are present in the study, but the elements...”*

*“More details of the X research design would have been appreciated.”*

*“The thesis builds on X methodologies, and uses X.”*

**Final overall assessment/conclusion** *(Instruction: this section must always be included regardless of evaluation approach 1 or 2)*

*(Instruction: state clearly whether the recommendation is unanimous or whether there is a split decision, and in the latter case which members of the assessment committee have which viewpoints)*

*“The recommendation is unanimous among the members of the assessment committee.”*

 ***Choose one of the following recommendations:***

**1. In accordance with Section 18(2) of the PhD Order, the dissertation is found suitable for public defence in the submitted version.**

*- If this recommendation is chosen, the recommendation must include a defense date and a suggestion for a topic for the public defense.*

2. **In accordance with Section 18(2) of the PhD Order, the dissertation is found suitable for public defence based on its contents, but the assessment committee recommends certain improvements, which are assessed as feasible to implement before the specified defence date.**

- *If this recommendation is chosen, the recommendation must include a specification of the recommended improvements, a defense date and a suggestion for a topic for the public defense. This can only be minor changes/improvements to the dissertation, and thus not substantial revisions.*

A suggestion:

*“Recommendation #2. In accordance with Section 18(2) of the PhD Order, the dissertation is found suitable for public defense based on its contents, but the assessment committee recommends certain improvements, which are assessed as feasible to implement before the specified defense date.*

*While the PhD dissertation reads well, the assessment committee recommends minor improvement, to increase the X of the X in the X. The following recommendations are listed below and further described in detail within the “X” section of this recommendation report.”*

*- Explanation of the X.*

*- Explain the details of the X.*

*- Reflection on the X.*

**3. In accordance with Sections 18(3) and (4), no. 2, of the PhD Order, the dissertation is not found suitable for public defence in the submitted version, but the assessment committee finds that the dissertation may be accepted for public defence after revision.**

*- If this recommendation is chosen, the recommendation must include a deadline for submission of the revised dissertation as well as a specification of the recommended improvements. The author and the main supervisor should be given the opportunity to submit their comments on the recommendation within a period of at least two weeks.*

**4. In accordance with Sections 18(3) and 18(4), no. 1, of the PhD Order, the dissertation is not found suitable for public defence in the submitted version, and revision within a reasonable period of time is not considered possible.**

*- The author and the main supervisor should be given the opportunity to submit their comments on the recommendation within a period of at least two weeks.*

**Date of defense**

*(Instruction: If the recommendation finds the dissertation suitable for defence, the date of the defence must be agreed with the author (through the supervisor), as far as possible taking into account the deadline stipulated in section 20(2) of the PhD Order. This means a deadline of at least 14 days after the author has received the preliminary recommendation and no later than three months after submission of the dissertation. If these deadlines are not complied with, the graduate school should be notified (see Rules and guidelines for the PhD degree programme, part 12.4).)*

Xday XXth of XX 202X (time of day and place to be announced)

The proposed topic for the defense: *“XXX .”*

The assessment committee proposes following topics to be discussed at the defense:

* XX
* XX

**Date and signatures**

Date Signature

Assoc. Prof. *[Write your title and name]*, (chair of the committee)

Aarhus University, Denmark

Date Signature

Prof.,

Prof., *[Write the title and name of assessment committee member #1]*

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*

Date Signature

Prof., *[Write the title and name of assessment committee member #2]*

*[name of the university]*, *[Country]*