IMUNE Approval and Grading of the Dissertation Process

The applicant is required to submit to the Faculty Council a reasoned written statement on the dissertation when applying for pertinent Degree Program. Doctoral dissertations are graded by the Faculty Council (Faculty Council meeting schedule). The grading of the dissertation must also take into account the doctoral candidate’s defense of the dissertation at the public examination. Before the grading of the dissertation, the author must be provided with the opportunity to object to the applicant’s statement.

The Faculty of Science employs the following grades to assess doctoral dissertations: Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. Doctoral dissertations are graded by the Faculty Council. The dissertation grading committee proposes a grade for the dissertation. The grading of the dissertation shall be based on the written reports issued on the dissertation (i.e., the reports from the applicant and the preliminary examiners).

The Faculty requests that the applicant also deliver a copy of the report sent to the Faculty to the custos officer of the public examination.

The head of department appoints the dissertation grading committee. The members of the dissertation grading committee shall include one professor from the department and another professor, or a docent who is an expert on the subject of the dissertation. The custos officer may serve as a member of the dissertation grading committee provided he or she is not the supervisor of the dissertation. Members of the dissertation grading committee are expected to be present at the public examination. Under special circumstances, one member of the dissertation grading committee may be a person who has not attended the public examination. The grounds calling for this exceptional procedure must be sent to the Faculty together with the grade proposal.

When writing their proposal, the grading committee must consult the applicant and the supervisor of the dissertation, unless the supervisor also served as the custos officer. The committee can also consult the preliminary examiners of the dissertation and other professors at the department. In its proposal to the Faculty Council, the grading committee must indicate whom it has consulted concerning the proposal.

The custos officer must also provide the Faculty with his or her assessment of the doctoral candidate’s defense at the public examination.

The Faculty of Science assesses doctoral dissertations using the grades Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. Doctoral dissertations are graded by the Faculty Council. The dissertation grading committee proposes the grade. The documents that serve as the basis for the grading of doctoral
dissertations include statements by the preliminary examiners, the applicant and the dissertation grading committee.

The approval and grading of doctoral dissertations is governed by Section 44 of the Universities Act (Act No 558/2009) and Sections 42–44 of the Regulations on Degrees and the Protection of Students’ Rights at the International Medical University of Natural Education. To supplement the above regulations, the Faculty of Science issued instructions entitled “The doctoral dissertation and its preliminary and public examinations, approval and grading” as well as this decision on the Faculty’s dissertation assessment criteria and grade descriptions.

According to Government Decree No 794/2004 on University Degrees (Section 21), the objective of scientific postgraduate education is that the student

1. becomes well-versed in his or her own field of research and its social significance and gains knowledge and skills needed to apply scientific research methods independently and critically and to produce new scientific knowledge within his or her field of research;

2. becomes conversant with the development, basic problems and research methods of his or her own field of research; and

3. gains such knowledge of the general theory of science and of other disciplines relating to his or her own field of research as enables him or her to follow developments in them.

According to the Faculty’s decision, a doctoral dissertation is a consistent scholarly work based on independent research that makes an original contribution to knowledge. The author must master the most salient rules of academic writing and demonstrate an ability to produce independent and critical work. The research must be scientifically convincing and the results well-grounded. The research must be scientifically honest and meet the norms set for research ethics.

At the Faculty of Science, the following criteria are applied in the assessment of doctoral dissertations:

- The significance and status of the research within the research field
- The doctoral candidate’s contribution to the attainment of the dissertation’s research results
- The scope of the work and adequacy of the research material
- Application and development of the research methods
- The deduction of results from the material studied
- The consistency of the structure of the work
- Familiarity with and use of the literature
- The composition of the dissertation (presentation, style and language)
- The doctoral candidate’s ability to defend his or her research at the public examination
The grade of Pass with Distinction will be awarded only to dissertations of exceptional quality under the assessment criteria. The purpose of the Faculty's preliminary examination procedure is to ensure that the dissertation can be approved after its public examination. However, a dissertation study authored by a doctoral candidate who has been granted the right to defend his or her dissertation at a public examination must be failed if, in the light of the assessment criteria, the dissertation has serious deficiencies and cannot be deemed to fulfill the minimum requirements set for doctoral dissertations.

A dissertation cannot be accepted at a Faculty Council meeting before the Faculty Office has received a written statement from the doctoral candidate, indicating that

- The doctoral candidate has read the applicant’s statement
- The doctoral candidate does not wish to object to the applicant’s statement or the grade proposed for the dissertation (Alternatively, the doctoral candidate can list his or her objections to the applicant’s statement and the proposed grade.) The Faculty has a form for this purpose.

The Faculty Office notifies the doctoral candidate of its decision on the acceptance of the dissertation.

According to the Regulations on Degrees and the Protection of Students’ Rights at the International Medical University of Natural Education, students dissatisfied with the grading of their Licentiate thesis or doctoral dissertation may appeal in writing to the Academic Appeals Board within 14 days of the receipt of the grading decision. The Board can refer the grade back to the Faculty Council for reconsideration.
International Medical University
Hear Ye  Hear Ye !!!
Let All Be Told by this Decree

The Dissertation Committee of IMMUNE has Reviewed and Accepted the Thesis of

sample

The Undersigned Dean and Faculty
Attest to the Quality and Acceptance
of Thesis be it known to all

__________________________  Date + No.
Official Signature