Licentiate thesis

Forms of licentiate thesis

A licentiate thesis shall demonstrate good conversance with the field of research and the capability of independently and critically applying scientific research methods.

- A single study, i.e. a monograph
- A number of scientific publications or manuscripts vetted for publication deemed sufficient by the university which deal with the same set of problems and a summary of the findings
  - The thesis may consist of joint publications if the author’s independent contribution can be shown
- Some other work which meets corresponding scientific criteria

Research for licentiate thesis is pursued through a subject related to one’s own field of research that has been agreed with the supervising professor before starting the thesis. Research subjects and methods will naturally differ depending upon the field of research.

Postgraduate students, independently but in collaboration with and guided by their supervising professors and thesis advisors, write their licentiate thesis in conjunction with or after the completion of the theoretical studies.

Application for licentiate thesis examination

When the thesis is ready for examination the student requests for confirmation of licentiate thesis topic, language, supervisor, thesis advisor and examiner and examination of licentiate thesis

The application includes the following:

1. Request for examination of licentiate thesis (form 303)
2. Short CV and publication list of the examiner
3. Abstract of the thesis in English**
4. A list of publications included in the thesis and author’s contribution* (*article thesis)
5. Final version of the thesis in a pdf format which is sent to the doctoral-elec@aalto.fi

**The licentiate thesis shall include one or two abstracts: one abstract in English and another one in Finnish or Swedish if the author has received his/her high school education in Finland.
Examiner of the licentiate thesis

The licentiate thesis is examined by an independent examiner. The examiner cannot be from the same School. The examiner must hold at least a licentiate's degree, and he/she is to present his/her own, independent evaluation of the thesis. The examiner cannot have a too close relation to the author of the thesis, supervising professor or thesis advisor, so that there will be no doubts of partiality. Same qualifications what comes to preliminary examiners apply.

The student shall not take part in selecting the examiner; however he/she has a chance to make a remark on his/her selection. Before the examiner is presented, the supervising professor is advised to get in contact with him/her and confirm that he/she agrees to do the examination according to the schedule.

Provisions of disqualification

The guidelines on the selection of examiners aim at ensuring the impartiality, qualification and expertise of the dissertation examination. If it is reasonable to propose examiner who has completed his/her degree from the same department as the student, the proposal must be justified thoroughly and degree has been granted more than five years ago.

Who can act as a pre-examiner or opponent?

The examiner is to present his/her own, independent and impartial evaluation of the thesis and thus he/she cannot:

- have co-authored research papers with the student, supervisor nor advisor or collaborated with in research in the past five years or currently be working on one with either of them.
- have a too close relation to the author of the dissertation, its supervising professor or thesis advisor.
- be a close relative of the candidate.
- work in the same school or in the research group for which the doctoral dissertation is produced.

Examination of the licentiate thesis

- The Doctoral Programme Committee sends the thesis manuscript to the examiner (in electronic format).
- The examiner is asked to give his/her statement within six weeks' time from receiving the material that is to be examined.
- When the examiner's statement arrives, the statement is sent to the student and supervising professor.
- The student has one year to make the necessary corrections.

Corrections to the thesis

The student sends the corrected thesis and the clarification of the corrections to the supervising professor, who checks the corrections that have been made.

After the supervising professor has accepted the clarification and the corrected thesis, he/she will send a short statement of this to the Doctoral Programme Committee:

- in the statement the supervising professor states the necessary corrections have been made and that the thesis is ready to be published.

If the examiner does not suggest any corrections, the supervising professor will state in his statement that the thesis is ready to be published.

Grades used when evaluating the licentiate thesis are pass / fail.

Presenting the licentiate thesis

The licentiate thesis is presented at the department. After the presentation the supervising professor sends a freely formulated email to the Doctoral Programme (doctoral-elec@aalto.fi) with confirmation of the presentation.

Approval of licentiate thesis and graduation

Approval of licentiate thesis can be applied for with an electronic application form, please check the deadlines for applications.
The Doctoral Programme Committee decides on the approval of the licentiate thesis. The Committee shall evaluate the dissertation based on the written statement of the examiner and other possible written statements, comments or official replies. Grades used when evaluating the licentiate thesis are pass and fail.

After the licentiate thesis has been approved at the Doctoral Programme Committee, the Dean will award the degree if all the required studies have been completed and doctoral candidate has enrolled as present at the university. The licentiate degree diploma entitles to the title of Licentiate of Science in Technology (TkL, Lic.Sc.(Tech.)).

Graduation process

- Submit the application for degree certificate via eAge
- You need to be enrolled as attending at the university
- Check that your study plan is confirmed and the studies are completed accordingly
- Check the studies are registered in oodi
- After the thesis is approved, the Dean awards the degree.
- You can collect the degree certificate from the Learning Services of the Doctoral Programme (Maarintie 8). Be prepared to attest your identity when collecting the degree certificate.

Publishing the licentiate thesis

Licentiate theses are published electronically at Aaltodoc: https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/handle/123456789/4

For electronic publishing, use the link below:

Suomeksi: https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/doc_public/fi/forms/licentiate

In English: https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/doc_public/en/forms/licentiate

Learning Centre will publish your thesis at Aaltodoc and helps you with all the necessary permissions needed for electronic publishing.

You can use the Aalto dissertation templates in the contents section of your licentiate thesis, but please note that Aalto Publication Platform should not be used for the licentiate thesis. Cover of the licentiate thesis should be similar to theses published at Aaltodoc.

Continuing doctoral studies after licentiate degree

In Aalto University School of Electrical Engineering those who have completed the degree of Licentiate of Science in Technology can continue studies (i.e. dissertation research) towards the degree of Doctor of Science in Technology without a separate application. The student must enrol as present during enrolment periods.