Defense of the research plan (3 ECTS)

**Time***:* Roughly mid-phase of the PhD project (~2 years after starting the PhD studies)

**Aim***:*

* to evaluate PhD student’s ability to plan a research project
* to confirm PhD student’s knowledge of his/her research field

**Phases***:*

* preparation of the research plan (by the student)
* selection of the board (by the supervisors and the student)
* studying of the research plan (by the 2–3 board members)
* defense of the research proposal (student and board present; no supervisors)
* qualification / rejection / repetition (by the board)
* plans for continuation (supervisors and student)

**Instructions**:

Doctoral student prepares a research plan (about 6 to 10 pages). Supervisors comment on the plan before it is sent to the members of the board.

Suitable running time for the defense of the research plan is 1–2 hours.

In the beginning of the defense, the student gives a short (15–20 min) oral presentation of the research plan.

The aim of the evaluation is to probe how well the student can make plans for the research, argue and discuss the topics of the relevant research field. In addition, facts and theories of the research are examined. The questions should be essential and fundamental, not on small details.

After the defense, the board fills in a report and sends it to the supervisor. The feedback is given in report and if the defense of the research plan has been approved or not (pass/fail).

A copy is sent to all supervisors and to the Director of Doctoral Programme in Drug Research (jarkko.rautio@uef.fi) for the registration of the credits. If the occasion was not qualified, the supervisor discusses with the student for the future actions.

Detailed evaluation instructions are included in the report form.