

Addendum to the PhD Handbook: Examination Committee and Co-author statements

As of 1st of September 2026, the PhD School Council has approved a change of rules for the Composition of the Examination Committee for PhD defences and the requirement for Co-author statements. This addendum states the change of rules to the sections 7.1.1 “Composition of the Examination Committee” p. 37 and 6.1.2 “Co-author statements” pp. 34-35 in the PhD Handbook revised 2026 until the next revision of the PhD Handbook in January 2027 is published.

What has changed

The restriction “the members of the Midway Evaluation Committee cannot be members of the Examination Committee for the defence” is removed from the section 7.1.1 “Composition of the Examination Committee” p. 37.

In addition, a limit on the number of co-author statements required is established in section 6.1.2 “Co-author statements” pp. 34-35. The established limit is: When a section (paper) in the PhD thesis has 3 authors (or less), including the PhD student, co-author statements from all authors are required. If a section has more than 3 authors, including the PhD student, co-author statements are required from 2 of the principal co-authors in addition to the PhD student. In such cases, Co-author statements from the remaining co-authors shall not be required.

Transition Period

The transition aims to ensure fairness for current PhD students while discontinuing the current rules.

For the PhD students, who already have an Examination Committee for the defence in place and approved by the Council before the cut-off date remains fully valid and will not be reassessed with the grounds of this change of rule.

The limit on the number of co-author statements required counts for all PhD students who are submitting their PhD thesis after 1st September 2026.

Implementation and Communication

The updated rules will be incorporated into the next revision of the PhD Handbook, January 2027. Until then, this addendum will be made available on the intranet. The changes have been communicated by e-mail to the enrolled PhD students and supervisors in the Head of the PhD School's monthly update.