

Information event on The Doctoral Exam: Public or Not?

23rd of July 2025

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Information event on The Doctoral Exam: Public or Not?

Are you curious about why the doctoral defense is partly public and partly taking place behind closed doors?
Wondering if this is the best way to do it?

Join us as we:

- explain the current procedure
- explore alternative ideas
- open the floor for discussion and your perspectives

Date: 23rd of July 2025

Time: 18:00

Location: Small Lecture Hall B



Organised by the KIT-Faculty of Physics and
the Physics PhD Student Council

Who are we

- **PhD student council:**
 - Representation of interests of the
 - PhD students at the department of physics
- **Representative Board:**
 - Lena Hauswald (IMS)
 - Greta Heine (ETP)
 - Mariia Poleva (TFP)
 - Marie Louise Schubert (TFP) - Speaker
 - Jan Voss (ETP)



Our Website

Pros and Cons of Public Doctoral Examinations

Pros	Cons
Allows friends, family, and colleagues to attend and offer emotional support	Adds pressure on the candidate due to public exposure
Increases transparency and demystifies the exam process	Changes the dynamic – exam more like a query instead of a scientific dialog
Encourages post-exam discussion about fairness and question difficulty	Potential for candidates to feel humiliated in case of weak answers
Provides witnesses in case of later disputes about the exam process	Such discussions can create unrest, as comparisons are often unfair due to differing topics and grading criteria
Helps candidates prepare better by attending other public defenses	Risk of examiners showing off or posing difficult questions to impress the audience

Further Information



Website
PhD student council



Flyer
PhD student council



Flyer
How to PhD (physics)

Poll



What is your opinion?
Public or Private Doctoral Defense?

What can you do?

- Join our get-together each semester: talk about current & future projects, exchange ideas, vote on new representatives, etc.
- Contact us (physik-doktoranden-vorstand@lists.kit.edu) if:
 - you want to **help** with ongoing projects
 - you want to **become part** of our council
 - you have **more ideas** to improve PhD life
 - at the Department of Physics
 - you simply want to chat :)



Thanks for coming and have fun!

How to end your PhD

1. Finish your **thesis** :)
2. Officially apply for [admission to the **Doctoral Examination** and Opening of the **Doctoral Procedure**](#) (Docata portal, then hand it in to the Dean's office)
3. **Oral Exam**: There are 20 minutes to present your (most important) work, then 50 minutes of questions by your PhD Commission
4. **Publish** your dissertation within one year after the exam

End