

Extract from "Guidelines for examination at PhD level at Halmstad University" – contents regarding conflict of interest

Concerning public defence of PhD thesis

Members of examining committee as well as opponent must not have any conflicts of interest. This applies to the PhD candidate as well as to the supervisor. Conflict of interest is defined in the Swedish law (Förvaltningslagen 16 §). Below you find an extract of this law.

In connection to the application of public defence of a PhD thesis, the principal supervisor certifies by his/her signature that the basis for conflicts of interest has been taken into consideration in the proposal, and that he/she has given information about the basis of conflict of interest to the proposed opponent and to members of the examining committee.

Conflict of interest

- 16 § Each person who, on the account of an authority, takes part in the processing in a way that may affect the decision of the authority has a conflict of interest if
1. he or she or a close relative is a party in the case, or otherwise may be affected by the decision and not in a non-essential way
 2. he or she or a close relative is or has been a deputy or representative for a party in the case, or for someone else who may be affected by the decision, and not in a non-essential way
 3. he or she has participated in the final administration of a case at another authority, and as a result of this, already has taken a stand on the issues that the authority shall decide on as a superior instance, or
 4. if there is another specific circumstance that makes his/her impartiality questionable

If it is obvious that the question of conflict of interest is of no value, the authority shall disregard the conflict of interest.

When examining conflict of interest, according to the Swedish law (16 § p. 4 Förvaltningslagen), assessment is done according to the two levels below.

Level 1: Relationships that are not allowed:

The proposed person has had a PhD student relation/supervising relation to the principal supervisor.

Level 2: Relationships that should be avoided and that need to be acknowledged/communicated in connection to the application regarding the public defence of the PhD thesis:

The proposed person has had a PhD student relation/supervising relation to the second supervisor.

The proposed person has had scientific co-production with the supervisor or the author of the thesis during the five last years.

The proposed person had participated in mutual research projects with the supervisor or the author of thesis during the five last years.

In addition to the relationships mentioned above, any relationships that might question the confidence for the suggested person should be avoided and need to be acknowledged/communicated in connection to the application regarding the public defence of the PhD thesis.

Concerning licentiate seminar

A distinguished researcher within a relevant subject area should be appointed as opponent. Neither the examiner nor the opponent should have a conflict of interest. This is in relation to the author of the thesis as well as to the supervisor. Conflict of interest is defined in the Swedish law (Förvaltningslagen 16 §). Below you find an extract of this law.

In connection to the application of the licentiate seminar, the principal supervisor certifies by his/her signature that the basis for conflicts of interest has been taken into consideration in the proposal and that he/she has given information about the basis of conflict of interest to the proposed opponent and to the examiner.

Conflict of interest

- 16 § Each person who, on the account of an authority, takes part in the processing in a way that may affect the decision of the authority has a conflict of interest if
1. he or she or a close relative is a party in the case, or otherwise may be affected by the decision and not in a non-essential way
 2. he or she or a close relative is or has been a deputy or representative for a party in the case, or for someone else who may be affected by the decision, and not in a non-essential way
 3. he or she has participated in the final administration of a case at another authority, and as a result of this, already has taken a stand on the issues that the authority shall decide on as a superior instance, or
 4. if there is another specific circumstance that makes his/her impartiality questionable

If it is obvious that the question of conflict of interest is of no value, the authority shall disregard the conflict of interest.

When examining conflict of interest, according to the Swedish law (16 § p. 4 Förvaltningslagen), assessment is done according to the two levels below.

Level 1: Relationships that are not allowed:

The proposed person has had a PhD student relation/supervising relation to the principal supervisor.

Level 2: Relationships that should be avoided and that need to be acknowledged/communicated in connection to the application regarding the licentiate seminar:

The proposed person has had a PhD student relation/supervising relation to the second supervisor.

The proposed person has had scientific co-production with the supervisor or the author of the thesis during the five last years.

The proposed person had participated in mutual research projects with the supervisor or the author of thesis during the five last years.

In addition to the relationships mentioned above, any relationships that might question the confidence for the suggested person should be avoided and need to be acknowledged/communicated in connection to the application regarding licentiate seminar.