

Mémoire defence English Linguistics

Duration of the defence : between 60-120 mins

People present :

- you
- your supervisor (chair of the defence, also ask questions)
- external expert (can be (a) a linguist from the department/faculty or (b) an expert on the topic from another institution ; particularly recommended for those of you who envisage a university career)
- your family, friends and colleagues (if you like)

Procedure :

a) You present your mémoire research, based on the common linguistics paper structure (c. 20 mins)

- Introduction (incl. niche, research question, method)
- Theoretical framework
- Method used
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion

→ You can also tell the audience how you arrived at your research topic

b) The supervisor will introduce the question part of the procedure and invites the external expert to ask questions

c) Once the expert has finished asking questions, the supervisor will ask questions

→ During the questioning process, there is a tendency to start with « big questions », e.g. what does your study contribute to the research field, what are your most important findings, how would you continue from here, etc., followed by « detailed questions » where the supervisor and the expert will ask questions linked to certain claims or data provided ; this means that specific pages in the mémoire will be looked at.

d) Some concluding remarks (overall impression) will be made by the supervisor (chair). You will then receive an indication of whether you passed your mémoire or not.

You are not told what grade you receive ; you will only find out once the faculty announces all grades at the end of the exam period.

You may be asked to make some more small changes in the mémoire before you upload it to the BCU system.

e) Closing of the defence

Preparation : the same as for a literature mémoire defence (details given by Rachel Falconer)