

FIRSTYEAR

MID-TERM REVIEW

When: Around the middle of July

Guidelines for PhD candidates

Each year candidates submit their ongoing work on the PhD thesis to a committee consisting of Department members and PhD Board representatives, in order to assess the research progress. The Mid-term reviews support the development of the doctoral path, thanks to the possibility to discuss the ongoing research with professors of the Design Department. At this stage, you are expected to have defined the topic of your research, to have identified the disciplinary fields involved, and the main research question(s) that will guide your work through a suitable and practicable methodological approach.

GUIDELINE

You are asked to present the status of your research progress through a visual presentation in front of a commission that will discuss the contents with you. This presentation should last approximately **15 minutes** and it has to describe the design of your research, focusing on the following topics:

Identification of the research topic

Please explain the meaning of the title and the subject of your thesis. This section should be conceived as an explanation of the title for those who are not into the topic. You must be able to make the committee members, regardless of their background and area of interest, understand what you are dealing with and your specific research perspective on the topic.

Disciplinary fields involved

Describe, also through research maps, the positioning of your research in the scientific communities of reference and its connection with other disciplinary fields. Please, highlight the relevance of your research within the international community at the academic and/or at the design practice levels. Also, highlight its positioning in relation to the context of the research funding sources (at different levels, i.e. institutional, regional, EU, etc.).

Literature review

Make an annotated description of your references so far, organized around the relevant topics and issues to your research question(s). You need to illustrate how your research question(s) fit(s) into the existing knowledge.

Research question(s)

Formulate in a clear way the research question(s) that you aim to place at the base of your work. Refer them to the disciplinary fields involved and to the literature review. You should be able to define the research problem you will address through your research methodology.

Methodology

Draft the most suitable methodological tools you can use to answer your specific research question, by describing briefly how they work - also referring to the related literature, and how do you plan to put them into practice.

Research glossary

Start defining a glossary to explain the meaning of the specialized terms you are using in your research.

COMMITTEE

The evaluation committee is composed by 3/4 professors. Your Supervisor is warmly invited to attend the evaluation. Each committee will assess 3/4 candidates.

EVALUATION

The committee will report a written evaluation that will be part of the documentation of the Annual Assessment in October (cf. Welcome Kit). In case of negative evaluation in the July assessment, the candidate will be required to repeat this assessment, with the same procedure, in October to access the second year.