

General Questions Underpinning Colloquia

At the request of supervisors and students, what follows are a couple of explanatory notes about the general questions underpinning colloquia; the first set deal with conventional dissertations and second with exegetical kind:

- a) The Colloquium Panel is collectively faced with at least eight preliminary questions. These are based upon the candidate's documentation and verbal response. The panel's overall task is to assess whether it is dealing with a careful, rigorous, and sustained piece of work, a submission demonstrating that the initial phase of research "apprenticeship" is complete and therefore that the candidacy should be confirmed.
- Does the candidate show sufficient familiarity with, and a critical understanding and appraisal of, the relevant literature or debate in his or her chosen sphere of enquiry?
 - Does the proposed thesis potentially provide a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the topic?
 - Are the methods and techniques adopted and exemplified in the submission appropriate to the subject matter and are they appropriately justified and applied? In other words, does it show that the candidate has begun to develop a thorough grasp of the appropriate methodological techniques and an awareness of their limitations?
 - Are the initial results able to be anticipated and presented suitably? Are they accompanied by adequate exposition, explanation, and/or interpretation?
 - Are conclusions and implications able to be anticipated and appropriately developed? Are they clearly linked to the nature and content of the research framework (and any preliminary findings)?
 - Has the over-arching research question or problem not only been clearly articulated, but also has it begun to be appropriately evaluated?
 - Is the expression and the general presentation of the documentation of a suitably high standard?
 - Does it demonstrate an ability to communicate its research findings effectively in the academic arena (and, ultimately, in an international context)?
 - Does the proposed thesis as a whole constitute a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area with which it deals?
 - Does that contribution to knowledge rest upon an originality of approach and/or interpretation of the findings and/or, as will occur in some cases, the discovery of new facts?
- b) In the case where the Colloquium Panel is dealing with an exegetical research project, typically (but not exhaustively) including a creative component drawing upon the literary, performing, or visual arts, there are also a further set of questions directed at the creative component of the submission:

- Does the sample of the creative component presented demonstrate a professional level of familiarity with and understanding of contemporary work in the field?
- Does the creative sample potentially demonstrate a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the artistic form and creative content?
- Are the methods and techniques applied in the execution of the creative sample appropriate to the subject matter and are they original and/or aesthetically effective?
- Is the creative work sampled presented in a sufficiently professional manner?
- Does the creative sample demonstrate a sufficiently high standard of literary, visual, or performance literacy and quality?
- Has the over-arching research question or problem been identified and begun to be embedded or explored through the creative work sampled?
- Is the documentation of the work (including catalogue or program material where appropriate) sufficiently thorough and of a standard that will ensure the work can provide a reference for subsequent researchers?
- Is there an appropriate and substantiated connection between the creative component and the exegetical component?
- Do the creative component and the exegetical component jointly and potentially constitute a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area with which it deals?

In the end, the aim of the Colloquium Panel is to provide constructive suggestions and comments as part of and/or in support of its formal recommendation(s), a summary of which will be contained in the Colloquium Report. The report is then forwarded to the Faculty and School coordinators, the supervisory panel and Research Services Division.

Finally, the Principal Supervisor is requested to forward a copy of the report to the candidate.