

Defence

Handing in your thesis

When your thesis is ready to defend, you need to send a written request, signed by your supervisor to the Dean of your faculty. This request must contain the title of your thesis.
At the Faculty secretariat, you need to hand in as many copies of your thesis as there are members of the jury + 3. An electronic version of your thesis is also requested.
The thesis can be written in Dutch or English.

Private Defence

Maximum 2 months later, your PhD jury will decide if you can defend your thesis.
The defence consists of two phases: first a private defence, and if this was successful, the public defence will follow maximum 1 month later.

Public Defence

The defence usually takes place in Dutch or in English, at the VUB.
The defence takes between 1 and 2 hours. It consists of a summary of the thesis directed towards the jury and the lay audience, and a discussion. The jury and the audience can question you.
The deliberation follows immediately after the discussion.
If you have passed, the chair of the jury will proceed to confer the degree of doctor.

Diploma

You won't receive your doctor's diploma straight after the public defence.
The Faculty passes on the information to the Department of Education (Dienst Onderwijszaken), which makes the diploma. This can take some months.
If you also have concluded 60 credits, you will receive the certificate of the PhD Training Programme.
If you have less than 60 credits, you can ask for a record of followed activities.