



The Committee for Research and Postgraduate Education of the Faculty of Health Sciences has given the following instructions regarding the incompetence of reviewers and opponents of doctoral dissertations due to the likelihood of bias (24 Oct. 2013):

Appointment of the preliminary reviewers

When the postgraduate student and his/her supervisors consider that the doctoral dissertation is ready for preliminary review, the student will apply for the printing permission and permission to publically defend the doctoral thesis. Main supervisor makes a proposal regarding preliminary reviewers. In the Doctoral Programmes of Clinical Research and Health Sciences, the proposal for reviewers is drawn up together with the main supervisor and the person in charge of the major subject.

The dean will appoint two persons from outside the home university with, at the minimum, a doctoral degree, to act as preliminary reviewers of the doctoral dissertation. When appointing the reviewers, issues challenging their impartiality due to likelihood of bias, which are listed in administrative legislation (i.e., 434/2003, §27-28), are taken into consideration.

- The supervisor of the doctoral dissertation may not be appointed as its preliminary reviewer.
- The preliminary reviewer may not be a co-author in any of the publications included in the doctoral thesis.
- The preliminary reviewer may not have been involved in close or recent collaboration with the supervisor or the postgraduate student in the field of the research topic.
- A person who has had joint scientific publications or research projects in the field of the research topic with the postgraduate student or his/her supervisor within the past five (5) years or who is otherwise considered incompetent due to the likelihood of bias, may not be appointed as a preliminary reviewer of the doctoral dissertation.

According to legislation (434/2003, 28§), *an office-holder is incompetent if confidence on his/her impartiality is endangered for some other specific reason*. If there is a possibility that the proposal is open to interpretations, a further clarification must be submitted to the Dean.

Appointment of the opponent

The dean appoints the opponent (opponents) and the custodian based on the proposal of the main supervisor (and the person responsible for the major subject in the Doctoral Programmes of Clinical Research and Health Sciences). The opponent must be a professor at another university, or (s)he must have the scientific merits required for a docentship. When appointing the reviewers, the issues challenging their impartiality due to likelihood of bias, which are listed in administrative legislation (i.e., 434/2003, §27-28), are taken into consideration.

- The post of the opponent must be outside the University of Eastern Finland.
- The opponent may not be a co-author in any of the publications included in the doctoral thesis.
- The person appointed as the opponent may not have been involved in close or recent collaboration with the supervisor or the postgraduate student in the field of the research topic.



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- A person who has had joint scientific publications or research projects in the field of the research topic with the postgraduate student or his/her supervisor within the past five (5) years or who is otherwise considered incompetent due to the likelihood of bias may not be appointed as an opponent.

According to legislation (434/2003, 28§), *an office-holder is incompetent if confidence on his/her impartiality is endangered for some other specific reason*. If there is a possibility that the proposal is open to interpretations, a further clarification must be submitted to the Dean.