

GUIDELINES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHY

ON THE DISTINCTIONS OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

§1 Criteria for awarding distinctions of doctoral dissertations

1. A doctoral dissertation can be distinguished only if:
 - 1) the statutory requirements for doctoral dissertations are met, i.e. the dissertation:
 - a) presents an original solution of a research problem,
 - b) displays the candidate's knowledge in the discipline,
 - c) shows the candidate's ability to carry out research;
 - 2) there are no significant doubts as to methodology or philosophical writing;
 - 3) there are no major reservations as to text editing;
 - 4) at least two of the following conditions are met:
 - a) the research achievement substantially exceeds the requirements set for doctoral dissertations (e.g. an original solution to an important research problem is proposed),
 - b) the research methods and tools used deserve a distinction (a significant contribution to the development of the methodology of the subdiscipline is made),
 - c) it represents an exceptionally high level of theoretical knowledge.

2. A strong, but not necessary, reason for a distinction of a doctoral dissertation is the publication (or acceptance for publication) of some of the dissertation results in peer-reviewed journals of high international rank or in a monograph published by a publishing house of high international rank.

§2 Motion for the distinction of a doctoral dissertation

1. The Doctoral Committee files a motion to the Academic Council for the distinction of the doctoral dissertation by way of a resolution adopted by a majority of at least 2/3 of the members present.

2. The justification of the motion includes:

- 1) information whether all reviewers supported the motion (or did not raise an objection to it) in the discussion;
- 2) information (with brief justification) that the conditions mentioned in §1 section 1 items 1-3 are met;
- 3) substantive justification, which should address the following issues:

- A. How important is the research problem that the dissertation tries to solve?
- Has the problem been discussed in contemporary literature? Is it the subject of conference presentations? (Please provide examples, if possible.)
 - If the problem is new (proposed by the candidate), what is its importance?
 - Does the solution to the problem proposed by the candidate undermine the existing consensus (if so, how)?
- B. Are the research results of the dissertation significant for the discipline or sub-discipline? (Are they original? Do they undermine the existing consensus?) At least one of such results should be indicated and briefly described.
- C. Does the dissertation make a significant contribution to the development of the methodology of the sub-discipline? If so, the innovative elements should be identified and their importance explained.
- D. What impact (national, international) will the dissertation results have? Have the results of the dissertation already been published? Are they likely to be published in a leading journal or by a leading publishing house?
- E. Were the objections raised in the reviews given satisfactory, comprehensive and competent answers during the defense?

§3 Procedure

1. The motion for the distinction of a doctoral dissertation will be reviewed by the Awards and Distinctions Committee of the Academic Council, which will give an opinion on the motion (the Committee does not review the doctoral dissertation).
2. The members of the Doctoral Committee may participate (without the right to vote) in the meeting of the Academic Council, at which the motion on the distinction of the doctoral dissertation is on the agenda.
3. The Academic Council awards the distinction of a dissertation if more than a half of its members present vote in favor of the motion.