



## Guide for the assessment of the thesis project proposal / research plan Doctoral Programme in Electronic Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

The purpose of this document is to clarify the items that will be evaluated after the defence of the Ph.D. thesis proposal / research plan, based on the written report and the oral presentation in front of the jury. Such items are:

- **Ph.D. thesis objectives:** assessment will consider whether the goals of the PhD thesis are precise and well dimensioned, as well as their originality and innovative aspects.
- **State of the art and bibliography:** assessment will consider whether the analysis done of the state of the art is wide and detailed enough; whether the context of the Ph.D. work is presented, other research groups that work in the same context area are identified, and their results are compared against the expected results of the thesis proposed; the bibliographic review is wide and the quality of the references, particularly recent ones; and whether the doctorate student shows a reliable knowledge of the state of the art during the round of questions after the oral presentation.
- **Description of tasks and resources:** assessment will consider whether objectives are clearly differentiated from tasks; whether tasks needed to achieve the objectives are reasonably described; the work methodology and types of work are identified (analytical-theoretical, simulations, experimentations, dissemination); resources needed to execute the tasks are identified and their availability is discussed (labs, equipment, stages, software, etc.), and contingency plans.
- **Work plan and calendar:** assessment will consider whether the work plan fits the expected duration of a PhD thesis (3 years full-time, 5 years part-time, plus possible extensions); its viability in terms of number and extension of tasks versus time to execute them; the existence of intermediate milestones with dates that will allow to quantify the progress and level of achievement of the objectives.
- **Quality of the presentation:** assessment will consider the communication skills, the expertise shown by the student in the thesis subject area of knowledge, the quality and accuracy of the oral presentation material (slides or equivalent) as well as the written report..

The jury should assign some points to each one of the above items based on the criteria detailed in the table in the next page. The maximum number of points for each item is shown in the first column of the table, and the maximum accumulated qualification is 10 points. **The assessment is considered to be SATISFACTORY if the Ph.D. student achieves 6 points or more.** Published papers in journals or conferences with the Ph.D. student as the first author are not mandatory for the evaluation of the thesis proposal, but they can be valued positively by the jury, and allow adding up to one point to the total.

**Assessment support form:**

PhD Student:

Date:

Jury:

Evaluation items	Maximum points	Points granted
<b>Ph.D. thesis objectives:</b> The maximum qualification is obtained if the thesis objectives have been clearly and precisely identified, if their content and extension are suitable for a PhD thesis in electronic engineering, and if they are original and innovative in the context of the state of the art.	2 points	
<b>State of the art and bibliography:</b> The maximum qualification is obtained if the analysis of the state of the art is broad and detailed enough to clearly define the problem or subject under study, if the student presents a complete bibliographic research in the work area, if previous and ongoing works in the same area have been described and a critical review of them has been presented.	3 points	
<b>Description of tasks and resources:</b> The maximum qualification is obtained if a set of tasks aimed to achieve the proposed objectives has been described with a reasonable detail, if the research methodology has been described, if the resources needed to undertake the tasks have been identified (labs, equipment, stages, software, etc), its availability is discussed and contingency plans are presented.	2 points	
<b>Work plan and calendar:</b> The maximum qualification is obtained if a work plan has been presented with a suitable duration (3 years full-time, 5 years part-time, plus possible extensions), if the execution of the tasks is viable with the proposed schedule, if the work plan includes milestones that will allow to quantify the adequate progress of the thesis, and if the work plan includes the time required for writing the thesis report, and for the thesis deposit and defense.	2 points	
<b>Quality of the presentation:</b> The maximum qualification is obtained if the former items have been presented in a compact, clear and concise way, if the student has shown synthesis and communication skills, if the written report is formally well organized, clear, can be identified as a scientific document.	1 point	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	10 points	

***The assessment is considered to be SATISFACTORY if the Ph.D. student achieves 6 points or more***