

# Guidelines for the conduct of the end-of-semester project defenses at the Department of Fine Arts, UMPRUM

## THE JURY

consists of one external member, one member of the Department of Theory and History of Art at UMPRUM and professors and/or PhD students of the Department of Fine Arts at UMPRUM.

## THE CHAIR OF THE JURY

is an external jury member.

## A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THEORY AND HISTORY OF ART

is selected by consensus among the jury members, and supervises the course of the defences. At the beginning of the day, they introduce the jury members and familiarize the attendees with the process and rules.

## THE GENERAL PUBLIC

can participate as audience members. Even in the case of a distance defence, it is ensured that at least one member of the public (e.g. another student) is present.

## THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEFENDING STUDIO

may summarize semester topics, assignments, or studio activities prior to the start of the defense. They may enter into further discussion, but shall not speak on behalf of the students. They act as neutrally as possible, and do not comment on the oral evaluation of the jury. During the jury meeting behind closed doors, they may add further information about the student's work during the semester. They ensure the completion of their studio sheets.

## THE DEPARTMENTAL METHODOLOGIST

has the opportunity to enter into the discussion even if they are a jury member without the right to evaluate students' work.

## JURY MEMBERS WITH THE RIGHT TO EVALUATE STUDENTS' WORK

does not leave the room during the entire course of the defence. In necessary cases, they do not grade the work for which they were not present at the defence. They try to remain constructive in the discussion, not to "test" the student, not to distance themselves (e.g. from the media), not to speak disproportionately (too much or too little compared to others), and not to otherwise interfere with the substantive setting of the discussion.

In the discussion, not only a retrospective evaluation of the student's work is valued, but also a reflection on the potential for its further development. The jury takes into account that the examination is a stressful situation for the student and that its format may be a limiting factor for some types of work. The defence in English is encouraged for students regardless of their level of language ability (provided that the student's level allows them to follow the discussion).

## THE STUDENT DEFENDING THEIR WORK

prepares a structured presentation of their efforts. It is recommended to consult these in advance, e.g. with a teacher of the Department of Fine Arts. During the defence, the student will provide the jury with their portfolio for preview. They bear co-responsibility for the quality and the course of the discussion (they can, for example, make suggestions themselves).

## THE COURSE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL DEFENCE (AT LEAST 20 MINUTES PER STUDENT) :

- 1 The student presents their work (max. 5 min).
- 2 Each jury member engages in a joint critical debate with the student and verbally evaluates the defended work.
- 3 The jury evaluates behind closed doors (usually summarised at the end of the day). The evaluation is scored with points and a corresponding grade:  
12-10 points = excellent,  
9-7 points = very good,  
6-4 points = pass,
- 4 3-0 points = fail;  
The evaluation is announced after the end of the defences.

We believe that constructive discussion at defences is a key piece of information for the student throughout the whole working process and can significantly influence the meaningfulness of artistic study.

Department of Fine Arts  
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