

Conflict of interest¹

External examiners and members of the examination panel

External examiners and members of the examination panel must meet the following conditions; if they do not, they should **abstain or recuse themselves**.

- They must not have a conflict of interest with the research carried out by the student or the production of the thesis.
- They must not be the student's blood relative (up to the fourth degree²).
- They must not be a close friend or nor openly hostile to the student or the thesis supervisor(s).
- They must not be co-author, with the student or the thesis supervisor(s), of publications related to the doctoral thesis (whether the thesis is submitted as a collection of articles or not).
- There must not be any other circumstances or factors that the academic boards of the doctoral programmes deem to be inappropriate.

When assigning people to act as external examiners or members of the examination panel, the following will be **prioritized**:

- People who have not worked on joint publications or research projects with the student or the thesis supervisor(s) while the thesis was being produced.
- People who have not supervised the thesis of the thesis supervisor(s).
- People who have not had a contractual relationship or shared funds for research projects with the student or the thesis supervisor(s).
- People who have not had a personal³ or working relationship with the centre or department of the student or the thesis supervisor(s).
- Any other circumstances or factors that the academic boards of the doctoral programmes deem to be appropriate.

¹ Conflict of interest as defined in section 5.6 of the [Code of Conduct](#) of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

² This includes great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

³ Anyone who meets any of the following conditions: spouse or person in an equivalent relationship; ancestor, descendant, or sibling; ancestor, descendant, or sibling of the spouse or person in an equivalent relationship.

Proposal for **external examiners and members of the examination panel**:⁴

Confirm that you meet these conditions:

- I have no conflict of interest with the research carried out by the student or the production of the thesis.
- I am not the student's blood relative (up to the fourth degree⁵).
- I am not a close friend of nor openly hostile to the student or the thesis supervisor(s).
- I am not co-author, with the student or the thesis supervisor(s), of publications related to the doctoral thesis (whether the thesis is submitted as a collection of articles or not).

Confirm that you meet these conditions:

- I have not worked on joint publications or research projects with the student or the thesis supervisor(s) while the thesis was being produced.
- I have not supervised the thesis of the thesis supervisor(s).
- I have not had a contractual relationship or shared funds for research projects with the student or the thesis supervisor(s) while the thesis was being produced.
- I have not had a personal⁶ or working relationship with the centre or department of the student or the thesis supervisor(s) in the last six years.

I declare that the information included herein is true, that I have not been involved in the production of this doctoral thesis, that there is no conflict of interest in my participation as a member of the examination panel and, therefore, that I will accept this role should I be asked to do so.

Signature:

⁴ This list will be added to the letter of acceptance so that they can indicate if there is any conflict of interest and then sign it.

⁵ This includes great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

⁶ Anyone who meets any of the following conditions: spouse or person in an equivalent relationship; ancestor, descendant, or sibling; ancestor, descendant, or sibling of the spouse or person in an equivalent relationship.