

Master Thesis / Trabajo de Fin de Master

TFM – Oral Defense

Here are some tips on how to approach your oral defense.

You will have to present your master thesis in approximately 10 to 12 minutes. During this time period you will have to deliver a succinct summary of your thesis. This entails that you have to specify the aim of your paper, sum up your main argument, consider the various aspects of the subject you have dealt with. You should mention the various chapters and give a brief summary of each. You also need to explain the conclusions you have reached. It is important to indicate the methodology you have adopted and the critical concepts and theoretical framework you have used in your research.

After your presentation, there will be time for debate: the members of the board will ask you various questions related to your thesis and you should be able to answer them.

You can use a powerpoint presentation *only* if you feel this is indeed relevant and needed. Do not use a powerpoint only to project the title of your thesis or the table of contents on a screen. (If the powerpoint presentation is redundant it can distract the attention of your interlocutor).

Be relaxed and to the point. Remember you cannot speak longer than 12-15 minutes. In order to prepare your defense you should put your ideas in order. Just think of what is important in your paper and try to convey this to the board. Structure your presentation around a question: what makes my contribution important? In formulating the answer to this question you should have fun. It is important to speak naturally, freely and fluently.