

Stand-alone vs Complied Thesis

Additional EDNE Guidelines to [Doctoral FAQs](#)

1) "Stand-alone" thesis document

Form: "**Introduction-Methods-Results-Discussion**". This is a good format if you should have no papers at the point of your defense. Please note that having published a paper is not a requirement for defending your PhD. Your PhD document, in general, needs to show your own scientific work to the Jury, and in a certain sense a stand-alone thesis is the best way to do so.

2) "Complied" Thesis

This is a good format when you have at least 3 papers, and when you have contributed strongly to at least 2 of these papers (usually first author), and if the papers form a nice "thread" towards a common theme of your PhD.

Format: General Introduction - Results Chapter 1 (Paper 1) - Results Chapter 2 (Paper 2) - Results Chapter 3 (Paper 3) - General Discussion.

The Intro and Discussion should, obviously, be entirely written by you. For the papers/manuscripts, please put the names of all co-authors, in the sequence as they have appeared/will appear in the final publication, at the start of each Chapter. For a cumulative thesis, at least 1 of these papers must be published (give full bibliographic reference at the start page of the Chapter), and the others must at least be mature drafts, to be submitted soon. At the end of each Paper/Results chapter, put a contribution statement that describes the contribution of each co-author.

3) "Hybrid" Thesis

Useful, if you will have two first author papers and especially, if you will contribute/have contributed a lot to the writing of these two papers.

Format: General Introduction - Results Chapter 1 (Paper 1) - Results Chapter 2 (Paper 2) - General Discussion.

If you write the drafts for "paper 1" and "paper 2" yourself, and if you have contributed the major amount of the material/figures in both papers, you don't need to list the co-author names at the start of these sections. However, at the end of the each Paper/Results Chapter, state that this paper will later be published as XX (naming all authors), and put a contribution statement that describes the contribution of each co-author.

In all other cases, the candidate should write a stand-alone thesis, in which her/his work is presented in detail. To ensure the appropriate attribution of authorship, the contribution of the student must be stated clearly for each piece of work.