

## Stand-alone vs Composite Thesis document

Additional EDNE Guidelines to [Doctoral FAQs](#)

### 1) "Stand-alone" thesis document

In this format, you describe and develop your PhD thesis from scratch. This is a good format if you have no papers ready at the point of your defense. (Please note that having published a paper is not a requirement for defending your PhD.) The format of your PhD thesis document should follow: "Introduction-Methods-Results-Discussion", and be fully referenced.

### 2) "Composite" thesis document

This is a good format when you have already one or two papers published or deposited, and when you have contributed strongly to these papers (usually as first or co-first author), and if the papers form a nice "thread" towards a common theme of your PhD, i.e., if they are topically aligned. The general form to follow would then consist of giving an introduction to your PhD work, followed by your paper(s), and end with a general discussion, with all chapters fully referenced.

For the papers/manuscripts, it is required that you 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. These publications have ideally already been published/deposited, or if not, should at least be mature drafts that are to be submitted soon. At the end of each chapter, it is further required that you put a contribution statement describing the contribution of each co-author.