SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SGS 052

GUIDANCE NOTE ON MASTERS VIVA VOCE

The purpose of the viva voce is to provide the student with an opportunity to defend the content of their Masters thesis and publicly demonstrate their understanding of thebroader aspects of their field.

The viva voce is an essential and very important part of the Masters degree examination process. To pass the viva, a student for the viva examination must deliver a performance that is satisfactory to the examiner and the AUN Graduate School.

The student must be able to discuss their work extensively, confidently, and with clarity.The viva voce will typically assess the following:

- The extent to which the submitted work meets the criteria for the award of a Masters degree.
- The student's authorship of the submitted work.
- The student's command of the subject of their submitted work and of the broad field(s) to which the subject belongs.
- The student's ability to successfully revise submitted work to meet the criteria for the award of the degree.
- Whether the submitted work was conducted and/or completed ethically and with integrity.

The viva voce will provide the examiner with an opportunity to confirm and finalize their scores based on the above.

All in all, the student must demonstrate to the examiner that their work is robust enoughfor the award of a Masters degree and that they fully understand the implications of their research findings. The student must therefore demonstrate to the examiner that the core assumptions underpinning their research are sound and that they have not over looked any major component.

Viva Presentation

The viva will be examined by an external expert. The student will deliver a presentation preferably using Microsoft Power Point Presentation of the thesis for up to fifteen minutes. Thereafter the examiner will ask the student questions which he/she is expected to answer. Each session should take up to 30 minutes.

Note carefully that this is an examination. However, students are encouraged to think of the viva voce not just as an examination, but as an opportunity to discuss their work with an expert in their field and receive constructive feedback.