

SGSPA PHD Thesis Defense Committee – and CUST structure/explanation

SGSPA Examining Committee Structure	CUST Supervisory Committee Structure/Explanation
Chair (uninvolved in thesis production, may be external to CUST)	Chair**‡
Head or Head’s Delegate	Supervisory committee member*
Supervisor(s)	Supervisor(s)*
Examiner	Supervisory committee member*
Internal/External°	Queen’s faculty member – if affiliated with CUST will represent their home unit – must be at arm’s length from candidate**
External Examiner°	From another university – invited by supervisor after discussion with student and possibly committee and must be at arm’s length from candidate**
Additional Examiner (optional)°	This category could be used for community representative or person with special expertise.

SGSPA regulations require that no member of the examining committee can be in [conflict of interest](#) with the candidate. Conflict of interest is defined as a personal or family relationship with the candidate and/or vested interest in the thesis or research for personal or financial gain.

*ONE member of the supervisory committee can be unaffiliated with CUST (that is, one person among supervisor(s), 2 committee members)

**SGSPA regulations require that the Chair, External Examiner, and at least one other examiner must be [‘arms-length’](#) to the candidate (e.g., must not have a prior supervisory relationship, must not have co-authored with or co-presented with the candidate).

°these committee members are selected and invited by the supervisor after discussion with the student.

‡Cultural Studies staff locates the Chair.

By Laura Murray, March 2023