

## FAQ Regarding Conflict of Interest in the Selection of PhD External and Master's Examiners

Q. Can I nominate an examiner with whom I have carried out research (within the last 5 years) on a topic unrelated to that of the student's thesis?

*A. No. Although the research was unrelated to the thesis topic, this relationship disqualifies the potential examiner.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner with whom I have co-authored a paper on a topic unrelated to the student's thesis within the last 5 years?

*A. No. Although the paper is unrelated to the thesis topic, this relationship disqualifies the potential examiner.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner with whom I have worked on a research project at a private company or other institution outside of academia within the last 5 years?

*A. No. Even non-academic relationships disqualify potential examiners.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner with whom I am a co-author on a conference paper or project report (within the last 5 years)?

*A. No. However, in rare circumstance, if it can be shown that the co-authors did not collaborate on the work, an exception may be made. Please contact GPS for confirmation.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner for my Master's student who will be supervising him/her for his/her PhD?

*A. No.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner who was on the student's thesis proposal committee but is no longer on the committee?

*A. No. The potential examiner has evaluated part of the student's thesis research.*

Q. Can I nominate an external examiner with whom I have a team, training, equipment or infrastructure grant?

*A. Generally no, however exceptions may be made if the grant is strictly for infrastructure support and there has been no research collaboration. Please contact GPS for confirmation.*

Q. I was a part of a group of five individuals who evaluated the potential external examiner's dossier for promotion to full professor. Can (s)he serve as an examiner?

*A. Yes.*

Q. Can I nominate a professor at another university who was formerly a post-doctoral fellow under my supervision (within the past 5 years), but whose research is unrelated to that of my student?

*A. No .*

Q. Can I nominate an external examiner who has reviewed the student's papers for (journal) publication?

*A. Yes, this is acceptable provided that the review was done anonymously.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner who previously evaluated my student in a different context (e.g., as a course instructor, (unrelated) comprehensive examination evaluator, etc)?

*A. Yes, provided that the examiner was not involved in evaluation of the thesis research.*

Q. Can I nominate an examiner who has provided feedback regarding my student's research in the context of a conference, seminar, etc.?

*A. Yes, provided that the feedback was limited to this context.*