Inviting an External Examiner to the Oral Defence

McGill does not require the external examiner to be present at the Oral Defence, although practice varies across the University and certain Units* do invite the external examiner to attend. In such cases, and when the external examiner is able to do so, the expense of the visit will be borne by the student’s Unit. If the Unit decides to invite the external examiner to the oral defence, it must take note of the following:

- Supervisor and student are not permitted to extend the invitation to the external examiner to the oral defence
- GPC or another administrator may extend the invitation and organize the visit
- Thesis unit may serve as liaison with external examiner regarding the visit when necessary
- Examiner should be informed that travel plans are only tentative until the evaluation report from the external examiner has been returned to GPS-thesis unit
- External examiners are permitted to give an academic talk separate to the defence. GPC or another administrator will be responsible to extend the invitation and organize the talk
- Oral defence form should clearly indicate that the external examiner (who provided an evaluation report) will be attending the defence; in this case, the external examiner will be considered to be the external member of the oral defence committee.

*Unit refers to a department, a division, a school, an institute, or a Faculty/University-wide program.

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