



Doctoral Thesis' chapters

PhD candidate's authorship statement

The degree of scientific contribution of a PhD candidate determines whether a manuscript can be part of the PhD thesis, and not the position of the PhD candidate on the list of authors. Thus, if the PhD candidate, as part of a team effort, has conducted a crucial part of a larger study, but is not the first, second or last author, the work can still be included in the thesis, as long as they explain their role in the study. Therefore, each chapter of the doctoral thesis explicitly indicates how the PhD candidate has contributed to this work. If relevant, this also applies to the general introduction and discussion.

The authorship statement is included in the thesis manuscript that is sent to the Assessment Committee, as well as the printed version of the thesis. Preferably, it is included on the title page of each individual chapter. Alternatively, it may be included as a separate appendix listing the authorship contribution for each chapter.

The authorship statement should focus on the PhD candidate's own contribution and not that of the co-authors. Items to address in the research chapters are usually: research question, methodology, research and data collection, data analysis, text and graphs, and the final discussion. For other chapters or for other types of research, the items to address may differ.

If there are authorship statements on chapters that were already submitted or published as paper, these may be re-used in the authorship statement of the thesis.

Examples of authorship statements

Examples general introduction

- The general research question and its general scientific and social perspective were proposed by my promotor. I delineated the research question, described how it fits in the current scientific literature and described its potential social impact. I revised the text two times, after comments of my supervisors.
- The idea and set-up of the general introduction were mine; I conducted the literature search and wrote the general introduction. During the whole process I asked for and implemented input and feedback from my supervisory team.

Examples research chapter

- I designed the study, performed data management, conducted the data analysis, wrote the first draft of the manuscript and implemented the contribution of the co-authors and external reviewers up to final publication. During the whole process I asked for and implemented input and feedback from the other contributors to this study.
- I contributed to defining the research question, proposed the methodology and the experimental design, carried out the experiments together with an MSc student whom I supervised, and did the data analysis together with the student and a statistician. The student wrote the first draft (therefore, I am second author) and revised it after the comments of myself (which were quite many) and the other co-authors.

Examples General discussion

- I wrote the first draft of the text after just one discussion with my supervisors on the subjects and arguments to be included. I revised the text once, after comments of my supervisors.
- I had the idea and set-up of the general discussion; I conducted the literature search and wrote the general discussion. During the whole process I asked for and implemented input and feedback from my supervisors. The general discussion represents my opinion and view which may be different from that of my supervisors.