

**ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD
DURING THE PHD THESIS DEFENCE**

(Art. 29 and 30 of the Regulations on PhD Thesis Preparation
and Examination approved on December 21st 2011)

The Secretary of the Board reads out articles 29 and 30 of the UPM's Regulations PhD Thesis Preparation and Examination

"The PhD thesis shall be assessed during the public thesis defence which shall consist of the presentation and defence of the research conducted by the doctoral candidate before the board.

The board members shall express their opinion and ask any questions that they deem appropriate. Any PhD holders attending the public defence shall also be entitled to ask questions at the time and in the manner established by the chair of the board.

At the end of the PhD thesis defence, each member of the board shall write up an assessment.

The board shall issue a report stating the overall pass or fail grade awarded to the thesis. *This grading system was amended by the Royal Decree 534/2013 of July 12th to the following scale that is now applicable: fail, pass, very good and excellent.*

Each member of the board shall vote on the PhD thesis being awarded the "cum laude" distinction in a secret ballot. Voting slips shall be placed in an envelope, which shall be sealed and signed on the flap by all the board members.

The PhD Programme Academic Board shall open the envelope containing the voting slips at its next session. The PhD thesis may be put forward for a "cum laude" distinction provided the vote is unanimously in favour".