Important note on PhD Qualifying Examination 3 (QE3): Research Proposal Oral Exam

1) The QE3 (Oral Exam) is to be conducted by the Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) of the candidate, which has to be formed by the supervisor as early as possible. The TAC consists of the supervisor plus at least two more faculty members, approved by the department.

2) QE3 takes place after the candidate passed the QE1 (Comprehensive Exam). It should be passed within the first 2 years of candidature. Each graduate student is allowed at most two attempts for QE3.

3) The candidate should submit an abstract of his/her research proposal to the Department, and the presentation should be announced in the Department at least one week before the Exam.

4) The Exam starts with the presentation by the candidate and Q&A open to public, followed by a close Q&A with the TAC. The TAC will make pass/fail decision at the end, and give the candidate advice, comments and suggestions.

5) The TAC will submit a report of the decision, together with a summary of the candidate’s performance and the advice/suggestions given to the candidate

Please take note:

(1) PhD candidate must pass all components of QE, the last one QE3 oral, within a two-year limit. Otherwise, the candidate may be asked to be downgraded to MSc.

(2) The supervisors need to propose the TAC as soon as the candidate pass QE1, instead of after QE3 as in the past.