

Defending a research thesis with the supervisor abroad: experiences with video conferencing

MASTERLEHRGANG BIOMEDIZINISCHE ANALYTIK



Overview

- > Starting point: Why do we use video conferencing for Master´s examinations?
- > Planning and procedure of the Master`s examination
 - » Technical equipment
 - » Organisational preparation
- > Experience with the procedure
- > Pitfalls and how to manage any difficulties
- > Take home message

Starting point

- > Students spend 6 months at a university abroad, e.g. in London



UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



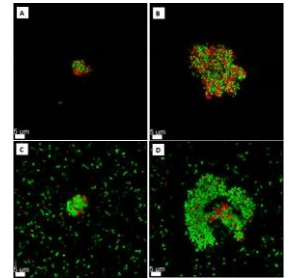
- > They work on a medical research project and write their Master's thesis



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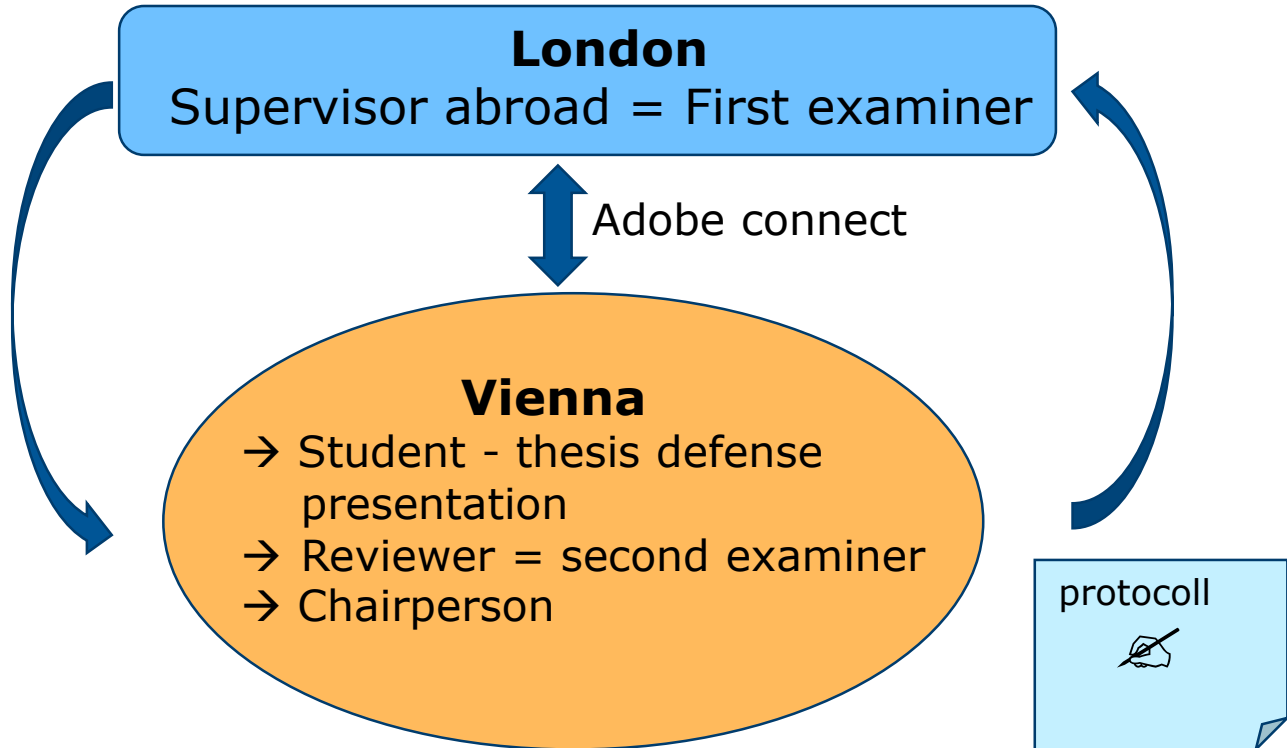
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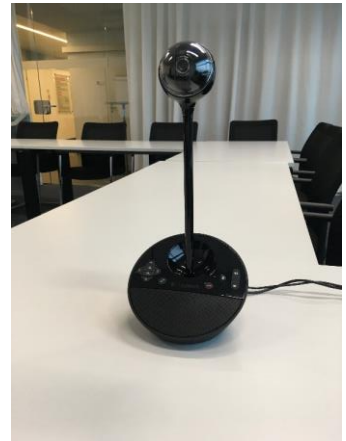
- > They are supervised abroad

Master's examination will take place at the FH Campus Wien in Vienna, where the student presents the thesis.



Technical equipment

- > Suitable room: optimal lighting conditions
no background noises
- > Stable internet connection: cable connection preferred
- > Software e.g. Adobe Connect or Zoom (+ back-up system)
- > 2 cameras or 1 camera with auto tracking in the examination room
- > Microphone with large reception area
- > Standard camera and microphone for the examiner abroad
- > Computer, notebooks, beamer

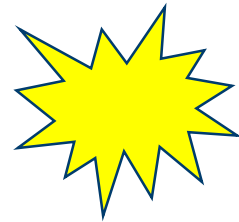


Organisational preparation

- > Technical support during the entire transmission
- > Slides and the examination protocol must be sent to the supervisor abroad in advance
- > Exchange addresses for the back up system Skype
- > Camera and microphone check together with the partners abroad a week before examination
- > Slack time must be scheduled

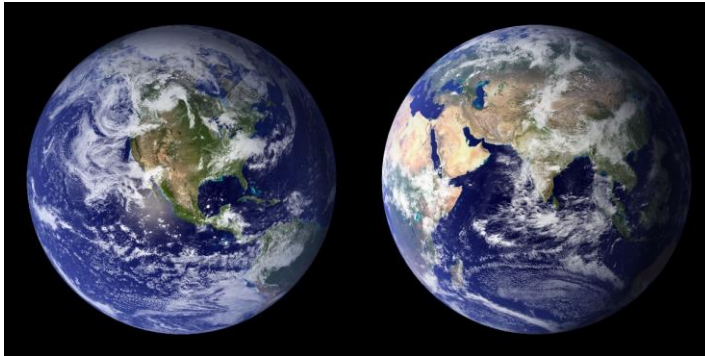
Difficulties

- > Sometimes Adobe Connect crashed, after restart it worked again
 - once fall back on Skype
- > Slow internet speed - interruptions



Take home message

- > Good preparation is very important
- > Research projects all over the world
- > It can be managed very well



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- 👉 Very interesting and positive experience
- 👉 Highly recommended