

Transcript part 1, pre viva zoom meeting Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Chair: Hello I'm Huw Summers, thanks for your time this morning, shall I call you geoffrey or Geoff?

Geoff: Yea Geoff will do, that's fine, yep

Chair: ok, brilliant, so, um, so, I'm the chairman, for your examination viva, on the 30<sup>th</sup>, ah so this morning briefly, the purpose for me is to run through with you and explain, how these viva exams take place. The purpose of this, is when you get there on the 30<sup>th</sup> you're aware how the whole thing ah, will run. So I'm chair and the other two people who will be there is, professor Lijie Li who is the internal examiner, and Dr Dhamikka Widanalage who is the external examiner, so there'll be three people there. Ah, my role is just to manage process, ensure its conducted according to the university's procedures, its rigorous and fair, it's the examiners role to examine, right? So I take no part in the actual examination side, I'm just there as I say, to manage the process.

Geoff: Ok

Chair: ah so, the exam is on your thesis,

Geoff: yep

Chair: and so is based on whatever is presented in that document. The experiments you detailed, your data your analysis the data your conclusions of that. So during the exam the questioning will be based around, that, that as presented in that document. Um and what they're trying to do, for their role, is to assess the quality of that work, the academic level of that work, comparing it to the general standard for MSc research both at Swansea and across the UK. So the reason you have an internal and external is to make sure it's not just referenced to what is normally presented at Swansea but wider, ah, so that's their role, and for the viva itself, the reason for this this, expression oral exam, ah, the examiners, during that exam, as well as assessing the quality, the point is, to assure themselves, that is indeed the students own work, which is presented in the thesis. To give you the student the chance to defend what's there, within the thesis, ah and also for the examiners to assess your wider knowledge of the topic area. Um, so I think I'd expect the examiners to run the exam as they choose, um, but I will expect it to take one to two hours, I expect, something like that, um

Geoff: mm

Chair: obviously they'll ask you about your work, as I've already said, ther'll be questions linked to what you've got there already got written down in the thesis, and at the end of that period, when they've gone through and asked you all their questions they want to, you'll be asked to leave the room for a short period while they then discuss the outcome of the exam, and their views and come to a joint decision then on the outcome of the exam. Ah and then they have a choice of options that they can uh, award from, ranging from, everything from a full pass no corrections whatsoever, through to passes with minor corrections, through to ah a fail, but an option to resubmit, and a full fail, and so obviously,

the exam on the day ranges from all through those options. Um, I think I'm just looking at my list of things I have here, that's really, I really wanted to you to know, to run through very quickly, so whilst you're still on there, um

Geoff: um ok, um and what do they want me to do at the viva?

Chair: So basically they will ask you questions, so you'll be your own .... To respond to the questions,

Geoff: so I, I, don't need to present my work then, I just take it for granted that they've read my work, and they've, just want to ask me questions on it.

Chair: They might want to ask you questions on it, it'll be useful if you have a copy of it there with you umm, they might want to refer to some work on page 60, you've written this, can you explain, bla, bla bla,

Geoff: yea

Chair: so obviously it will go back and for. So if you have a copy that would help, help things there, ah so yeah. So it's just responding to their questions, it's a discussion, a chance for you and the examiners to discuss the work in the thesis and discuss it.

Geoff ah, ok, and you'll have a pc there I can use that I can bring up my work if I need to.

Chair: I'll make sure there's a pc there for you and it'll be linked to a screen, etc, so that's fine,

Geoff: that's ok then, that's fine yea,

Chair: ok, so the only final thing for me, in my role, is I just need to check with you. Are there any extenuating circumstances that completed the completion or the presentation of the thesis that you need to bring to the attention of the examiners.

Geoff: ah yes, you could mention that I did this during lockdown, and just as I was starting my experiments I was taken out of the university, due to the lockdown, and then I was never invited back in by the university, because they didn't like my thesis,

Chair: ok so when you say the university, so you mean your supervisors?

Geoff: yea the supervisors, yea they sent me some nasty emails saying that, to er drop certain material out of my work, which I've well evidenced in the work since, and ah

Chair: so let's just check on that, so did you request to come back in

Geoff: no I didn't I didn't, I carried on with my experiments at home, but there was no chance to go back in I was told this by the engineer in department. Due to lockdown,

Chair: umm ok.

Geoff: so that's just my only moot point really, not that it affected my work, I don't feel, because I think the experiments I put inside my work that I carried out at home, portray my thesis, anyway so, but that is a point you can bring up.

Chair: yea, yea ok, I think this is a background anyway, um obviously the covid coming in at the time you're doing this research degree was inevitably going to be impacted so I think it is

Geoff: another point I do have is the university have tried to do this viva online, and I've objected to it and they've made several different excuses for that, but personally I feel they've done it to avoid me. So I feel I'm already against the university due to the subject area of my work,

Chair: ok

Geoff: I think they tried to block it, they've already said they want support it for publication,

Chair: so, so in terms of the viva as I've said, the examiners will examine what you've written, in the thesis,

Geoff: yep

Chair: so they will, you know, they will, want you to discuss what experiments you did, how you validated them, the data, the conclusions you're drawing

Geoff: yea, my work is not, sorry to interrupt Huw,

Chair: yea continue,

Geoff: My work is not all about my experiments, it's also about the background research which is very vital to the subject I'm talking about,

Chair: ah well ok, they'll explore that on the day, and obviously, it's a masters of research in engineering, they will be coming back, and bringing it back, to ok, is this worth presented for a degree in engineering, so it will be the technical work that they want to concentrate on.

Blanche: well, yea, they can concentrate on what they like, cause they'll ask the questions, but ah, my answers will be relevant to past research as well as present research.

Chair: ok well, as I say, that's the point of the viva,

Geoff: yea sure, yeah good,

Chair: okay, that's fine then, so, um, so, we're scheduled for Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> aren't we,

Geoff: yea

Chair: I don't know the exact time myself, or the room but I've got it down

Geoff: yea, 1pm

Chair: yea, okay. So I will see you then

Geoff: yea okay Huw, thanks very much.

Chair: okay bye

Geoff: see you then

End of Pre viva zoom meeting