

Drinks After Doctoral Defences

After a successful doctoral Final Oral Exam (but not OQEs or MA Final Orals) the department will pay for a round of drinks for all those attending the defence, including the candidate, the examining committee, and any student or guest who attended the exam. Typically the candidate is taken to the University Club—though other reasonable venues are also acceptable—and drinks are purchased with the Department’s hospitality card; if the card is not available, the Chair of the examining committee or their designate can pay for the drinks and be reimbursed on production of a receipt. Normally we would not expect this expense to exceed \$50 or so.

A common practice in the Department is for a doctoral student’s Advisor, or Advisory Committee, to take them for a celebratory meal after the Defence. The Department does not normally pay for this. However, the Department will on a case-by-case basis and when funds permit assume some financial responsibility for showing hospitality to a visiting External Examiner (over and above their travel expenses, which the Department routinely pays for). In addition, Advisors, especially junior faculty members, may approach the Department to pay for a Candidate’s celebratory dinner—though not meals for themselves or the rest of the committee—if they feel that hosting the successful graduand presents an uncomfortable financial burden for them.

Author: Andrew Bailey
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