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**Lunds universitet
BIOLOGISKA INSTITUTIONEN**

**FUN
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Guidelines to comprehensive summaries of dissertations from the Department of Biology

PhD theses at the Department of Biology are almost exclusively compilation theses based on a number of published papers and/or original manuscripts. The actual dissertation – the comprehensive summary (Swedish – kappan) – is a summary and synthesis of the individual chapters.

The goal of the summary is:

- To show breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the research field
- To show ability to place the research in a larger theoretical, scientific context
- To summarize the goal of the research project and the hypotheses/questions addressed
- To show familiarity with the methods and analytical tools used in the research field, and an assessment/evaluation of these
- To show ability to reflect on the role and limitations of the research

The summary should in primarily be a reflective discussion of one's own research results in relation to the research field as a whole, and be a scientific text that can stand alone without extensive copying of text from the chapters or by referring to text/figures in the chapters. The summary is the PhD students' own text and should be written by the PhD student and not be rewritten by advisors or other faculty. However, the latter may give comments and suggestions. Figures and tables from the original chapters can be included (with the agreement of potential journals), as well as new figures/tables. Note that the summary is a public document and publication, and this may affect future possibilities to publish data presented in the summary.

The half-time report is typically an excellent basis for the summary.

The summary is an important basis for the examination committee's evaluation of the quality of the theses and of how well the PhD student has reached the goals listed by the Higher Education Ordinance for a PhD degree.

All advisors and the examiner must have read the summary before it is submitted for printing, to assure that it up to standard with the goals and guidelines above.