

Assessment of Master's theses

1 Grading scale

Master's theses are graded on the following scale: 5 = Excellent, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Satisfactory, 1 = Passable, 0 = Fail.

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| 5 (Excellent): | The thesis is of an exceptionally high quality and demonstrates the author's academic maturity, critical thinking skills and thorough familiarity with the topic. The thesis covers all essential issues in a logical order and constitutes a coherent and consistent whole. The thesis meets excellently the requirements set for Master's theses in all the areas assessed. |
| 4 (Very Good): | The thesis is of a very high quality and demonstrates the author's maturity, critical thinking and familiarity with the topic. The thesis covers all essential issues in a logical order and constitutes a clear and consistent whole. The thesis meets very well the requirements set for Master's theses in almost all the areas assessed. |
| 3 (Good): | The thesis is of a high quality, covers all essential issues in a logical order and constitutes a consistent whole. The thesis meets well the requirements set for Master's theses in most of the areas assessed. |
| 2 (Satisfactory): | The thesis constitutes an understandable and sufficiently logical whole. The thesis has some deficiencies, but meets the requirements set for Master's theses in several areas assessed. |
| 1 (Passable): | The thesis covers some essential issues in a somewhat logical order and is passable. The thesis has many deficiencies, but meets passably the requirements set for Master's theses in several areas assessed. |
| 0 (Fail): | The thesis is fragmented and illogical and does not constitute a whole. The requirements set for the various areas assessed are not acceptably met. |

2 Areas of assessment

The assessment is based on a scale of 0–5.

The following main issues are considered in thesis assessment:

1. Research topic and purpose

- Justifying the research topic and its significance
- Showing insight in the selection and definition of the topic
- Defining a clear research question and objective, research problem or theme
- Considering research ethics

2. Knowledge of the research field and related theories as well as use of literature

- Being familiar with relevant research and literature
- Defining a research perspective and concepts relevant to the problem discussed
- Using a wide range of source literature
- Using source criticism and original scientific sources
- Analytically examining perspectives presented in the source literature and creating syntheses

3. Material, acquisition of material and analyses

- Selecting an appropriate method to address the research question
- Describing the method comprehensively (strategy, information retrieval and analysis)
- Ensuring that the material is sufficient and applicable for the research question and analysis method
- Describing the material
- Using the method critically and in an evaluative way
- Considering research ethics

4. Research results and reporting

- Addressing the research question in the results
- Reporting the results clearly and logically
- Illustrating the relationship between the images, diagrams and tables and the text

5. Examination of results (discussion) and conclusions

- Specifying the relationship between the research results and previous research
- Presenting new research problems
- Considering opportunities for applications
- Assessing the reliability of the thesis according to the research approach
- Considering issues of research ethics
- Examining the research process and results critically and thoroughly
- Drawing thorough, reliable and insightful conclusions
- Basing the conclusions on the results

6. Structure, clarity and general polish of the thesis

- Using a clear structure appropriate for the research approach
- Mastering the craft of academic prose (varies according to the research approach)
- Distinguishing between the author's own interpretations and the information presented in sources as well as incorporating these two elements clearly and seamlessly
- Using grammatically correct language
- Documenting sources appropriately and consistently
- Writing a clear and accurate bibliography
- Using an appropriate layout

7. Work during the thesis process

- Being open-minded and independent
- Adopting methods and solving problems creatively
- Completing the thesis in the planned timetable