



Master's Thesis in Informatics

1 Guidelines

1.1 Definition

The Master's Thesis is a written paper done independently by the student and worth 30 ECTS credits. It is supervised by an IfI professor (= "responsible person") and, if necessary, co-supervised by other persons (= "supervisors") and must¹ be written in the chosen major subject.

1.2 Time and duration

As a rule, the Master's Thesis is written in the last semester of the Master's level. Before starting the Master's Thesis, you must have completed the Master's Project. You have a maximum of six months to complete the Master's Thesis (according to the dates defined in the registration form, see section 2.2 below).

1.3 External/Interdisciplinary Master's Theses

The Master's Thesis must always be supervised by an IfI professor. Whether the thesis is co-supervised by an external person or completed at a company is the decision of the responsible person.

1.4 Form of the Master's Thesis/Copyright

Please refer to the fact sheet (available on the IfI website) on the "Preparation of Bachelor's and Master's Theses in Informatics". According to current law, the copyrights for written work and the artefacts created in the course of such work are held by the students, but you must sign the "Agreement on the rights to written works and artifacts" on the registration form when starting with your Master's Thesis.

2 Procedure

2.1 Planning the Master's Thesis

Contact the desired professor in good time (approx. 4 to 6 weeks) before the planned start. Please refer to the information on the respective websites of the research groups. There is no entitlement to supervision by a specific person (so you may have to ask another responsible person).

2.2 Theme issue and registration

You discuss the topic with the responsible person and, if applicable, the supervisor and then jointly fill out the form "Registration for Bachelor and Master Theses in Informatics". This registration form must be sent from a UZH email account to studies@ifi.uzh.ch, either by the responsible person or by you (with the responsible person in CC). Your thesis is considered "officially registered" only once you receive the registration confirmation email from the Study Coordination.

¹ For students of Informatics who start their thesis before 1 August 2022, this requirement does not apply. For them, as before, the thesis should, if possible, be completed in the area of the major study program.



2.3 Support

The supervisor is your point of contact during the preparation of the Master's Thesis for the discussion of the assignment, disposition, any difficulties and questions.

2.4 Submission

Following the fact sheet "Preparation of Bachelor and Master theses in Informatics", send your completed Master's Thesis from your UZH email account to studies@ifi.uzh.ch at the latest 6 months from the start of the thesis (according to the field "Start date" on the registration form). You will see the exact deadlines in the registration confirmation email. Allow some loading time for large files. Master's Theses submitted late or not in the correct form are considered failed.

2.5 Defense

After submitting your Master's Thesis, at the latest, you will make an appointment with the responsible person for the defense. This must take place within 4 to 6 weeks after submission. The defense includes a presentation of the Master's Thesis lasting approx. 20 minutes as well as a subsequent question and answer session on the topic of the Master's Thesis lasting approx. 10 minutes.

2.6 Evaluation and crediting

The responsible person evaluates the submitted work, including the defense, with a grade according to the fact sheet "Preparation of Bachelor's and Master's Theses in Informatics". The ECTS credits are recorded by the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics, and listed on the next transcript of records.

2.7 Repetition of failed work

The Master's Thesis can be repeated exactly once, whereas a new topic must be chosen. A repeated Master's Thesis can be supervised by another responsible person. Even in the case of a repetition, there is no claim to supervision by a specific person.