

EES Master's Thesis Guidelines

(curriculum committee, 29.04.2009)

Master's thesis project (28 ECTS)

The students carry out an independent research project. The topic of the project should be in the field of Evolution, Ecology or Systematics. The students carry out the plan they wrote during their "Individual Research Training 3". They read the relevant literature and become an expert in the methods to be used in their work. Statistical analysis of the collected data is an important part of the project. The student writes a report (Master's thesis) in the format of a journal article (60,000 – 100,000 characters).

Goal

The students become more independent and confident because they carry out a larger research project which they designed themselves and for which they are responsible. They learn that plans need to be changed and updated. They do research and communicate their results in a report.

Presentation of the Master's thesis (1ECTS)

The students give a 30 minute presentation about their Master's thesis for the group in which they worked.

Guidelines

Due to formal reasons the first supervisor must be a professor or PD (i.e., "Privatdozent") and must come from the EES teaching network (i.e., he or she gives courses in EES). If the Master's thesis is to be pursued outside of the LMU, it requires the approval of the chairperson of the Examination Committee (see EES Studienordnung).

Students must pick the topic of their Master's thesis within the first two weeks of the third semester and tell the EES coordinator. A form with the topic signed by the student and supervisor has to be given to the EES coordinator.

The Master's thesis project should start no later than March 18th to allow the student to finish the Master's thesis within the mandatory period of 24 weeks. It is advised that a first draft is submitted to the supervisor by the beginning of August. The supervisor has to fill in the Master's thesis feedback form for the student and return it to the student by mid-August. The submission deadline of the final draft of the Master's thesis is September 2nd.

Four hard copies of the Master's thesis must be submitted to the EES coordinator by the submission deadline, September 2nd. The date and time of receipt will be recorded. The day of submission to the EES coordinator, the student must declare that he or she conducted the work independently, excluding acknowledgements for assistance stated explicitly in the thesis. An electronic version of the Master's thesis must be submitted to the EES coordinator for archival storage.

The same day (Sept. 2nd) the EES coordinator will forward one copy to the supervisor and one copy to a further member of the Examination Committee. Both will have to submit a written evaluation and the grade of the Master's thesis by the 16th of September (two weeks before the semester ends) to the EES coordinator. An evaluation form with instructions will be made available for this purpose.

Deadlines 2009:

- submission of Master's thesis to the supervisor and the EES coordinator 02.09.2009
- grading and evaluation of Master's thesis by the supervisor 16.09.2009

