

Information sheet about the Master's thesis (valid for students starting in the autumn semester 2024)

This Information Sheet is based on the Study regulations 2020 for the Master's degree programme in Civil Engineering, 24.05.2023-1

Objective

1. The Master's thesis concludes the Master's degree programme, where students should demonstrate their ability to work independently, in a structured and scientific manner.

Admission

2. Permission to begin the Master's Thesis can only be given to students who
 - a. have fully completed their Bachelor's degree;
 - b. have fulfilled any additional requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme in Civil Engineering;
 - c. have earned at least 90 CP in the Master's degree programme (whereby the required 11 CP for the project work must have been earned).

Guidance/Supervision

3. The Master's thesis must be supervised by a professor (hereinafter referred to as "the supervisor") of the D-BAUG.

Affiliation to the Specialisation

4. Students must work on a topic from one of the two chosen degree specialisations.

Timeline Organisation

5. The Master's thesis takes 18 weeks. This is made up of 16 weeks of working time and 2 weeks of contingency to compensate for public holidays, sick days and or other short-term absences.
6. The thesis is completed with a written report and an oral presentation. The organisation of the presentation is the responsibility of the supervisor. If possible, the final oral presentation should be held in the second-last or last week before the end of the Master's thesis. An A0 poster (portrait format) must be produced for the presentation and exhibition of the Master's thesis as part of the Master's degree graduation ceremony. The final deliverables for the Master's thesis are the written report, presentation, and poster, and are to be submitted to the supervisor at completion.

Master's Thesis Poster Design Requirements

7. [Template ETH CI/CD](#): Scientific poster, portrait format, coloured or white (do not use old CI templates!)
 - Format: Adobe Illustrator or Power Point
 - ETH logo: Freestanding top left
 - D-BAUG logo: please use the [official ETH department logo](#), top right instead of written organisational unit or bottom left
 - Institutes and partner logos: Generally at the bottom (on the right or across the entire width if required)
 - Color: All ETH colors according to CI/CD, incl. shades and colors used with partial opacity.

- Size: A0, 84.1 x 118.9 cm (must be adhered to. Also when plotting in self-service - cut it yourself)
- Paper/print: White paper, matte, 120g (note: glossy paper is not suitable because the surface reflects the light and the poster is therefore difficult to read)

Preparatory Work as Project Work

8. In the case of a research topic being selected as the Master's thesis, the supervisor may require preparatory work as part of the research-related project work (11 CP). This project work is completed in the semester before the Master's thesis and is graded separately. The project work follows the regulations and requirements as outlined in the [information sheet](#) "Project work in the Master's degree program in Civil Engineering curriculum 2020".

Assessment

9. The Master's thesis is assessed with a grade. The supervisor of D-BAUG determines the assessment criteria in writing at the beginning of the Master's thesis and enters the final grade in eDoz.
10. The Master's thesis is passed if the grade is at least 4.0. 20 CP are awarded for a passed Master's thesis.

Repetition

11. A failed Master's thesis can be repeated once. A new topic must be worked on within one of the two chosen specialisations. The repetition can be carried out with another professor. A Master's thesis that has been passed cannot be repeated.

Group Work

12. The Master's thesis can be completed as group work, provided that the individual performance of each group member can be assessed independently. The performance of each group member is assessed individually with a grade. The pursuit of a group thesis requires the prior written consent of the supervisor of the Master's thesis.

Registration Procedure

13. No specific topics are advertised. Students must organise the Master's thesis themselves through discussions with the professors. Upon agreement between supervisor and student, registration of the given Master's thesis is possible.
14. Students register for the Master's thesis in myStudies (>Functions>Projects/papers/theses), select the name of the supervising professor and enter the title of the thesis. This must be completed by the beginning of the semester of the Master's thesis at the latest.

Master's Thesis at Host University

15. If the Master's thesis is written at a host university, please note the following:
 - a. Responsibility for the Master's thesis remains with the supervisor of the D-BAUG.
 - b. A professor at the host university is responsible for supervising the thesis and submits the grade to the supervisor of the D-BAUG.
 - c. The supervisor of the D-BAUG decides the final grade and enters it in eDoz.
 - d. Determination of further organisational measures (interim reports, interim presentations, form of grade transmission, etc.) is the responsibility of the D-BAUG supervisor.

Master's Thesis at a Company

16. If the Master's thesis is written in collaboration with a company, please note the following:
 - a. The supervisor of the D-BAUG must agree to this.
 - b. With regard to copyright pursuant to Art. 23 of the [ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments](#), the following applies: "Anyone who writes a thesis, in particular a term paper, Bachelor's or Master's thesis, as well as models/types or computer programs in the context of performance assessments shall be deemed to be the author of the corresponding work within the meaning of copyright legislation." This point must be discussed with the company.
 - c. According to the [directive](#) "Payment of semester, Bachelor's or Master's theses by third parties" of the ETH Zurich, the following applies: "Payment for the writing of a semester, Bachelor's or Master's thesis outside ETH Zurich may not be agreed with third parties, neither by students nor by other members of ETH Zurich with third parties."

Key Dates

17. The Director of Studies determines the start and submission date. If there are valid reasons, the Director of Studies may approve an extension or postponement of the Master's thesis upon request. This decision is final.
18. Issuing the Master's thesis: At the beginning of the second week of the semester
Withdrawal of the Master's thesis: Monday after 18 weeks
[Exact dates](#)

At least 2 to 3 interim meetings between supervisor and student are recommended.
The final presentation should be given in the second last or last week of the Master's thesis.