Evaluation of a Master's Thesis

Dear Lecturers

We briefly summarise the most important points when evaluating a Master's Thesis:

- The evaluation form must be submitted to the Student Administration (env_science@ethz.ch) no later than two weeks after the Master's Thesis submission.

- Not all criteria have to be met. The criteria serve as guiding questions to clarify expectations & responsibilities at the beginning and to guide the evaluation at the end.

- Please also enter the grade on eDoz and click "Send and submit". The grade will be decreed within three working days.

- If the given period of two weeks is not sufficient for the assessment, please inform the student clearly.

- Every Master's Thesis must be assessed independently by the supervisor (Referent/in) and a co-supervisor (Korreferent/in). If the average grades awarded by these two persons differ by more than 0.5, the thesis must be evaluated by a third person. In this case, the final grade will be determined in a discussion among the three persons.

- If the thesis is awarded the final grade 6.0, the main supervisor must submit a written report along with an electronic copy of the thesis (PDF) to the Student Administration: Guidelines: Award of MSc theses with the ETH Medal and UMNW prize

- The candidate is entitled to an explanation of the grades awarded, either in a discussion with the examiners or in a written report. The evaluation sheet (see below) is a good basis for such discussion.

- With the agreement of the main supervisor, very good and excellent Master's theses (final grade: 5.5 or higher) can be published in the E-Collection of the ETH Library, see http://e-collection.ethbib.ethz.ch/.

Thank you and best wishes,

The Study Administration

Student (last name, first name) ....

Supervisor, Co-Supervisor ....

Criteria	Grade Supervisor	Provide reasons for your evaluation	Grade Co-Supervisor	Provide reasons for your evaluation
Independent scientific thinking / originality ▪ Was the thesis a stand-alone project wholly or partly suggested by the student, or was it defined by the supervising team? ▪ How was the student involved in devising the research questions and the study design? ▪ Did the student conduct their work using methods that are not used regularly in your group? If so, how independent were they in applying them? ▪ Did the student encounter any unexpected challenges and obstacles, and if so, how did they overcome them? ▪ How involved were you and/or other supervisors in the writing of the thesis?				
General scientific competence ▪ Does the candidate show familiarity with the relevant literature? ▪ Are the aims/hypothesis/questions of the thesis formulated clearly? ▪ Have these aims/hypothesis/questions been achieved/answered? ▪ Are the results of the thesis placed in a broader scientific and/or translational context? ▪ Are suggestions made for subsequent research? ▪ Has the research been carried out responsibly and with all due scientific integrity?				
Methodological competence ▪ Did the student learn or even develop new techniques/methods/tools? ▪ Are the methods and techniques used correctly described and applied? ▪ Are these methods and techniques suitable for the subject of the thesis? ▪ How good was the student's field/lab work? ▪ Have the results been appropriately tested by statistical analyses and/or sensitivity tests?				

Student (last name, first name) ....

Supervisor, Co-Supervisor ....

Quality of presentation ▪ Is the structure of the thesis logical and appropriate? ▪ Are the results and interpretations presented clearly and logically? ▪ Are facts clearly distinguished from interpretations? ▪ Is there an informative summary of the thesis? ▪ Are the formal requirements for figures, tables, references etc. met? ▪ Is the text easy to understand and correct, both grammatically and scientifically? ▪ Is the layout of the thesis well done?				
Work process ▪ Did the candidate acquire the knowledge necessary to complete the task? ▪ How was the collaboration with the supervising team, other scientists and external partners (if applicable)? ▪ Has the student conducted the thesis with good communication, self-organization, and proactiveness? ▪ Has the student made good use of constructive criticism?				
Average grade				
Final grade				

ETH Zürich Grading System

6.0 – 5.75 excellent (among the best 10%)

5.5 – 5.25 very good

5.0 – 4.75 good

4.5 – 4.25 satisfactory

4.0 pass

3.5 fail (obvious flaws)

3.0 poor

https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/rechtliches-abschluesse/grading.pdf

_____
Signature of the supervisor

_____
Date