

Criteria and grounds for the assessment of theses for Master's degrees / TEMPLATE

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Weighting |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|-----------|
| Research area, sources, literature | The thesis shows a limited understanding of the research area. There are shortcomings in the definitions of relevant concepts. The sources are few in number, of a low scientific quality and not appropriate. The use of the literature is insufficient. Source criticism is almost entirely lacking. | The thesis provides a partly limited picture of the research field and there are shortcomings in the explanation of the choice of research field. There are some shortcomings in the definitions of relevant concepts. The sources are relatively few, central sources might be missing and their scientific quality is relatively low. The use of the sources is partly insufficient. | The thesis demonstrates a good understanding of the field. Concepts are well defined. The sources are relevant. The number of sources is sufficient, the use of them is appropriate and shows source criticism. | The description of the research field in the thesis shows a deeper understanding than the average of the research field. The concepts used are well explained and motivated. The source material is extensive and exhaustive. The sources are used in a correct and varied way. The thesis demonstrates source criticism. | The thesis demonstrates broad and deep thinking within the research field. The concepts used are relevant and skilfully derived from the research field. The author has chosen topical and appropriate sources of a high scientific quality. The source material is extensive. The analysis of the sources is substantial and thorough. | |
| Choice of subject, problems, aims and limitations | The choice of subject is superficially motivated. The problems, aims and limitations are not clearly formulated. | The choice of subject is relatively inadequately explained. The problems, aims and limitations are vaguely formulated. | The choice of subject is well motivated. The problems, aims and limitations are clearly formulated. The thesis is structured according to a clear plan. | The chosen theme and perspective are relevant. The choice of subject is very well motivated. The problems, aims and limitations are very clearly formulated. | The choice of subject, the motivation of the choice, the problems, aims and limitations demonstrate an independent, critical and innovative approach to research. | |
| Research methods | There are shortcomings in the choice of methods and the explanation of the choices. The methods are insufficiently used and reported. The performance of the experimental and/or theoretical work is insufficient. | There are some shortcomings in the choice and use of methods. There might be shortcomings in the reporting of the methods and the explanation of the choices. The performance of the experimental and/or theoretical work might contain shortcomings. | The methods are well chosen in relation to the research field. The choice of methods is well explained. The methods are correctly used and reported. The experimental and/or theoretical work has been well performed. | The methods are well chosen, correctly used and exhaustively reported. The choice of methods is exhaustively explained. The methods are critically evaluated and validated. The experimental and/or theoretical work has been very well performed. | The choice and use of methods demonstrate an ability to produce excellent scientific research. The research process and methods are very thoroughly presented, and the choice of methods is very well explained. The methods have been further developed. The performance of the experimental and/or theoretical work is excellent. | |

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| Results, discussion and conclusions | <p>There are few results and they contain errors. The results are reported in an insufficient way. The results are not clearly linked to the problems. The theoretical discussion is limited and insufficient. The literature is not linked to the author's own research. The results presented are not explained. The thesis contains few and superficial conclusions and they may contain errors.</p> | <p>The results are reported in a simplified but logical manner. The results are only weakly linked to the problems. The analysis of the results contains only some links to earlier research. The critical analysis is limited. The conclusions are relatively modest.</p> | <p>The results are appropriately and logically reported. The results are clearly linked to the problems. The thesis demonstrates the link between the results and the source material. The results are interpreted and evaluated. Problems have been resolved and the conclusions are based on factual arguments.</p> | <p>The empirical and/or theoretical results are logical and sufficiently extensive, and clearly linked to the problems. The results are very well reported. The analysis of the results contains a clear and logical link to earlier research. The results are critically interpreted and evaluated. The conclusions are well explained.</p> | <p>The empirical and/or theoretical study is very extensive and performed in a very good manner. The results extensively answer the problems and are at a similar level to results presented in international conference publications, but do not necessarily have to contain new scientific finds. The reasoning and conclusions are very clear, to the point and critical.</p> | |
| Formal criteria, presentation, language and illustrative elements | <p>There are shortcomings in structure and presentation. The thesis is partly difficult to read due to shortcomings in the language, and it is difficult to follow the reasoning. The references and the bibliography might contain errors. Pictures and tables are missing or there are shortcomings in their layout.</p> | <p>The thesis does not form a uniform, structured entity. The text is not fluent and there are shortcomings in the language. The references and the bibliography might contain occasional errors. Pictures and tables might contain shortcomings.</p> | <p>The structure of the thesis does not show any significant shortcomings, the text is clear and there are only minor linguistic errors. The references and the bibliography do not contain any errors. Pictures and tables are used in a well explained manner and the tables are clear and correct.</p> | <p>The thesis forms a unified, logical written presentation. The text is fluent and the language used is excellent. The references are correct and consequent. Pictures and tables are of a good quality and well considered.</p> | <p>The thesis is impeccable when it comes to formal criteria, structure, presentation, language and use of pictures and tables.</p> | |

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| Independence of the work | The empirical and/or theoretical study and writing process has required an exceptional amount of support from the supervisor, including issues that the author should have been able to handle independently. Shortcomings have not been corrected despite recommendations to do so. The student has not displayed any personal development during the process. | The student has performed the empirical and/or theoretical study and writing process independently, but has needed support even in some routine issues. Alternatively, the student has not followed the supervisor's recommendations. The student's personal development has been insufficient. | The empirical and/or theoretical study and the writing process has been performed independently with some support from and discussions with the supervisor. The student has followed the supervisor's recommendations and displayed personal development during the process. | The thesis has been researched and written independently. The student has asked support from the supervisor for well-motivated needs. The student has displayed good personal development during the process. | The author has written the work independently with a critical approach, and has continually on his or her own initiative been in touch with the supervisor in order to develop the work further. The student has displayed very good personal development during the process. | |

NB! The learning objectives must be adjusted according to the criteria.

MODEL: Having written their Master's thesis, students should be able to:

- explain the main features of their own field of research and find, use and evaluate sources;
- formulate a problem and aims and limit the theme;
- choose, use, present and persuasively explain a method for the thesis, and perform experimental and/or theoretical work;
- present and discuss the results of experimental and/or theoretical work and literature, and draw conclusions;
- structure a thesis, use understandable language, use pictures and tables, and write correct references;
- perform experimental and/or theoretical work and write a thesis with support from a supervisor.