

EES Master's Thesis Guidelines 2017

29 ECTS

Curriculum Committee, September 2013

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 and should follow the plan they wrote during their "Individual Research Training 3." Students read the relevant literature and become experts in the methods necessary to complete their research projects. Students will conduct statistical analyses of the data they have collected and will write a report (Master's thesis) in the format of an academic journal article (60,000 – 100,000 characters).

Goal

The students gain independence and confidence through the process of carrying out a larger research project that they designed themselves and for which they are responsible. They learn that plans need to be changed and updated. They conduct research and communicate their results in a report.

Presentation of the Master's thesis (1 ECTS)

At the annual EES Conference in October, the students give a 10 minute presentation about their Master's thesis research.

Guidelines

The 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 the EES Program). If the supervisor is neither, then the evaluation of the thesis must be signed by the "Lehrstuhlinhaber".

If the student wishes to conduct a Master's thesis outside of the LMU, the student must gain the written approval of the chairperson of the Examination Committee (see EES Studienordnung). Students must select the topic of their Master's thesis during the third semester and discuss it with their IRT3 supervisor (who in most cases will also be their thesis advisor).

Before beginning with their Master's thesis projects (**April 3rd, 2017** at the latest), students have to register with the form "Registration for Master's Thesis" (please see under EES downloads) at the examination office / "Prüfungsamt" (room B 00.056; please pay attention to the opening hours). They have to start with their Master's thesis projects no later than **April 3rd, 2017** in order to finish within the mandatory period of 24 weeks. It is advised that a first draft be submitted to the supervisor by the beginning of August. By mid-August, the supervisor must fill in the "Master's Thesis Feedback Form" and return it to the student. The submission deadline of the final draft of the Master's thesis is **September 4th, 2017**.

One hard copy of the Master's thesis must be submitted to the Prüfungsamt B 00.056 (office hours Mo 9:00-11:00) by the submission deadline, **September 4th, 2017**, one hard copy must be submitted to the supervisor by the submission deadline, **September 4th, 2017**. The date and time of receipt will be recorded. The student must declare that he or she conducted the work independently (Statement of Originality), excluding acknowledgements for assistance stated explicitly in the thesis. An electronic version of the Master's thesis (in PDF format) must be submitted to the EES coordinator for archival storage at the same time.

The following **must** be attached in the hard copies:

- a "Statement of Originality"
- the "last page" which can be downloaded

The supervisor will have to submit a written evaluation and the grade of the Master's thesis by **September 18th, 2017** to the EES coordinator. An evaluation form with instructions will be made available for this purpose.

Deadlines 2017:

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| Before start of Master's Thesis | Registration at the Prüfungsamt (with signature of supervisor) |
| April 3 rd , 2017 | Start of Master's Thesis |
| Beginning Aug. 2017 | 1 st draft of thesis should be submitted to supervisor |
| Mid-August 2017 | Supervisor should fill out and return the "Master's Thesis Feedback Form" to the student and the coordinator. Students, make sure your supervisors have this form. |
| September 4 th , 2017 | Final submission of Master's thesis to Prüfungsamt B 00.056 opening hours: Tue 9:00-11:00 |
| September 18 th , 2017 | Supervisor submits grade and evaluation of the thesis to the EES coordinator using the "Master's Thesis Evaluation Form." |