

Dear student,

as you know, to get your degree you are supposed to defend your thesis work, i.e. the so called “final examination”. For such activity, 30 ECTS credits are allocated.

Given the exams distribution of your Master degree and the workload, the best period to focus on the thesis project is the fourth semester (second part of the 2nd academic year).

In general, at the beginning of the second year or once you have accomplished 70-90% of your exams (but this is up to each student and timing can vary accordingly) the student should try to focus on a meaningful topic of his/her own interest and identify the professor who might have an experience on that topic, based on the research or teaching activities of that professor.

The student should then address that professor about his/her availability to supervise a thesis work on that topic. In case of positive response a general outline of the work is agreed and defined.

The project might be suggested by the student or by the professor.

Regarding the topic, we recommend students to be inspired by insights coming from attended courses, conferences or webinars, contacts with companies or public bodies, challenges and problems faced during internships or other company-related experiences you have had.

Different types of thesis project are possible in our Master degree, including (not exclusively):

- **RESEARCH THESIS WORK:** research activity is performed under the supervision of a scientist from the University of Padova or from another institution. The work might be standing alone or, conversely, might include experiments and activities as a smaller part of a bigger project. In the latter case, the thesis document focuses mainly on the activities of the candidate. Provided by the supervisor it might also include additional results from other activities carried out within the same project framework.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY THESIS WORK:** This bibliographic thesis involves the drafting of a document in English, starting from a collection of scientific articles or other documents collected by the candidate or recommended by the supervisor. The work might produce also some meta-analysis (i.e. a survey in which the results of the studies included in the review are statistically similar and are combined and analyzed producing new findings).
- **TRAINEESHIP/INTERNSHIP THESIS WORK:** The work is inspired and, in some case, might summarize the research or work activities carried out during an internship or a traineeship. It cannot be just a diary or a report of activities, but might anyhow bring some new knowledge with some hypothesis or some kind of research question.
- **COLLABORATIVE WORK:** The same research project might be carried out by a group of two or more students, collaborating to solve some specific scientific issue. The collaboration might benefit from different skills from different candidates, exploiting the solution of the given research issue. Each candidate will write his/her personal thesis document, reporting and focusing in particular on his/her specific contribution. Results brought by other candidates might be included, in order to improve readability and understanding of the dissertation.
- **CASE STUDY:** This thesis work relates to an in-depth analysis carried out on a specifically interesting object, as for instance a clinical, a private company, a geographical area or a legal case. The case study embodies or allows definition of specific hypotheses and should open up to thoughtful analyses and conclusions.

In case the thesis project is carried out in an external institution or company, the signature of an agreement is always needed, between the University of Padova and the host body, for insurance reasons.

In all cases a supervisor/advisor from the University of Padova is formally needed. The supervisor can be chosen among professors teaching in one of the Study programmes coordinated by the School of Agricultural

Sciences and Veterinary Medicine or in one of the Study programmes in which the professors of the Departments coordinated by the School of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine are involved.

The supervisor addresses and guides the student in writing the dissertation. It is the student's responsibility to make adequate progress toward completion of the thesis project, keeping deadlines under control.

The thesis must be an original work of the candidate. As mentioned, plagiarism is not only ethically wrong but also a severe infringement of university regulations. Dissertations might be checked for plagiarism via the plagiarism detection services available at the university of Padova.

Further details might be found here:

<https://www.agrariamedicinaveterinaria.unipd.it/en/current-students/graduation/final-dissertation-2nd-cycle-degree-courses-held-english>

or here:

<https://www.agrariamedicinaveterinaria.unipd.it/en/current-students/graduation>

or here:

<https://www.unipd.it/en/graduation>

Regarding the thesis document, some general guidelines are here below provided.

Paper format: Use the standard A4 format, commonly with 2.5 cm, top/bottom, right/left margins.

For the internal edge of each page, the final binding must be taken into account, providing a space of 5-10 mm higher than the outer one.

File format: In order to make readability and corrections easier, we recommend to prepare the thesis document with a common editor (e.g. Word) in a common format (e.g. .doc or .docx). Once finalized, the final version will be eventually uploaded as a .pdf file in Uniweb. Student are not asked to print a copy of their thesis.

Size & line spacing: The text should be in 12 point character and 1.5 spaced lines.

Font: Choose a commonly used font that provides a full character set, as for instance "Arial" or "Calibri".

Tables & pictures: Insert tables, graphs and images directly where they belong in the text. Tables should be on one page, not divided across different pages. We recommend to insert figures selecting the option "in line with the text".

Layout: Pages must be numbered with Arabic numerals. Only the pages relating to preliminary components can be numbered separately with Roman numerals. All pages of the text are counted for numbering purposes; however, there is no page number on the title page, on the pages that contain only a title, on the white pages interposed. The final copy will be double-sided. A blank page can be inserted at the end of chapters where necessary, in order that new chapters, sections, bibliography etc. fall on the right hand side, on an odd-numbered page. A reference benchmark might be ranging in the interval 40-90 pages (around 15.000-35.000 words).

Language: The thesis must be written in English. In any case, you must submit a written summary both in Italian and in English.

Presentation: The presentation of the thesis must be done using PowerPoint, with an average length of 10 minutes. The presentation is then followed by questions from the Commission: the total duration depends on the amount of questions arising after thesis presentation.