

Information sheet: Master's thesis within the Master's degree programme in Geomatics

Basis: Programme Regulations 2013 of the Master's degree programme in Geomatics of 15.01.2013, version 26.10.2021 – 2

1. Aim

The Master's thesis completes the Master's degree programme. It verifies the student's ability to work in an independent, structured and scientific manner. The thesis must address a theme from one of the two selected specialisations.

2. Admission

Students are only permitted to commence the Master's thesis if they have

- a. completed the Bachelor's degree programme;
- b. fulfilled all additional requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme in Geomatics, if any such requirements were imposed;
- c. acquired at least 90 credits in the Master's degree programme, 12 of them from project work.

3. Supervision

The Master's thesis addresses one of the two specialisations selected and is supervised by an ETH professor from the corresponding discipline.

4. Organisation

Work on the Master's thesis is carried out over 18 weeks¹ and concludes with a written report and an oral presentation. At least 2–3 interim discussions between the student and the supervisor are recommended during this period. The supervisor is responsible for organising the presentation. It should, if possible, be given in the second-to-last or the last week of the thesis period. For the presentation and for the exhibition of Master's theses at the degree ceremony, a poster in A0 format must be prepared by the student.

The Director of Studies determines the start and submission dates (see point 10). If substantial reasons are supplied in written form, the Director of Studies may on request grant an extension of the working period or a postponement of the Master's thesis unit as a whole. His/her decision is final. Extension requests are processed only for extensions of more than five working days.

A Master's thesis, once begun, may only be aborted in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Rector of ETH Zurich. If circumstances arise which demand withdrawal, the student must submit a written request to the Study Administration Office immediately. The request must contain an explanation of the reasons and include supporting documents (e.g. a medical report).

5. Assessment

The Master's thesis is graded. The supervisor determines the assessment criteria and lists them in writing when thesis work commences; he/she enters the final grade in eDoz when the thesis is concluded.

¹ 16 weeks of work plus 2 weeks of compensation for holidays, sick days and other brief absences

The Master's thesis is passed if it receives a grade of 4.0 or higher. A successful Master's thesis comprises 24 credits.

6. Group work

The Master's thesis may be undertaken as a group project, provided that the individual efforts of each group member can be assessed. The efforts of each group member are graded individually. Undertaking the thesis as a group project requires the previous written approval of the Master's thesis supervisor.

7. Repetition

A failed Master's thesis may be repeated once. If it is repeated, a new theme from the selected specialisations must be addressed. The repetition may be supervised by a different supervisor than in the first attempt. A Master's thesis which has already received a pass grade cannot be repeated.

8. Enrolment

Students may view a variety of themes on the degree programme website. It is also possible to define a topic individually in consultation with the respective professor.

Students must enrol for the Master's thesis electronically in myStudies. Enrolment must be completed by the beginning of the semester in which the Master's thesis will be written. **It is the supervising professor's responsibility to check enrolment and confirm supervision in eDoz** before the student starts working on the thesis. The student must not start working on the thesis before enrolment and confirmation.

9. Master's thesis at another university

If a student submits a written request containing certain details (see below), the Director of Studies can grant permission for the student to work on the Master's thesis at another university, e.g. as part of a student exchange programme. However, all the aspects mentioned above still apply. In particular, an ETH professor working in the area of the thesis must be involved as co-supervisor, adequate supervision at the host university must be assured, and the thesis must be submitted at ETH. All of this must be stated in the written request, which must also be signed by the ETH professor. The latter is responsible for grading the thesis and for ensuring that the level and the quality of the work meet the requirements of ETH.

10. Deadlines

Start and submission dates:
see [geomatik.ethz.ch/termine](https://www.geomatik.ethz.ch/termine)