

Master Thesis regulations for Master CANS

(Version 080619)

The Master Thesis is a mandatory subject that corresponds to 30 ECTS in the Master's studies. This document contains regulations in order to be followed by a student to pass this subject.

The Master Thesis

Because the Master CANS is research oriented, the main objective of the Master Thesis is to conduct an original work of basic or applied research within the areas defined in the Master CANS. The student who prepares a Master Thesis will defend it in front of an examination panel composed by 3 doctors who will evaluate aspects related to the originality of the selected topic, the methodology used to raise and solve problems, the results obtained, the presentation of the report, the clarity and the possibility that the work (or part of it) be presented at a conference or a journal, national or international.

Structure of the report of the Master Thesis

The format of the Master Thesis should reflect, without excluding other elements of a research paper, the following contents:

- Introduction
- State of the art and background
- Definition of the problem to solve
- Methodology to solve the problem
- Problem resolution
- Theoretical or experimental results
- Discussion of the results
- Bibliography

Generally, the structure of the Master Thesis could follow the structure of an extensive journal article. There is no page limit, neither minimum nor maximum, but quality and not quantity is recommended as metrics. As a recommendation, a Master Thesis could have about 50 pages, written in A4, 12 points and single spaced.

Advisors of a Master Thesis

The Master Thesis has to be advised by a doctor who may be associated with the Doctorate Line from the Department of Computer Architecture (AC) or who may be from outside the department. The Master Thesis can be co-advised by more than one doctor. In the event that the direction of the Master Thesis is external to the department of AC, there is a need to have a doctor associated with the department acting as Tutor.

The functions of the Advisor (Director) of the Master Thesis consist of i) authorizing the registration of the Master Thesis, ii) supporting the students during the development of the Master Thesis, including writing and presentation, iii) ensuring compliance with this regulation.

The Tutor's main function is to ensure that the director of the Master Thesis has access and complies with this regulation.

Registration and enrolment of the Master Thesis

The legislation does not limit the mechanisms for a student to define the topic of his/her Master Thesis and choose its Director. In general, doctors associated with the Doctorate Line from the

department will propose topics for Master Thesis that students can choose. Students can also arrange with a doctor a topic of interest.

The registration of the Master Thesis, as the rest of the enrolment for the master, is performed by the "Facultat de Informàtica" (FIB) as administrative managing body of the Master. To enrol the Master Thesis, the student will submit a prior registration request form to the department of AC, which indicates the information necessary to enrol the Master Thesis, which includes student, title, advisor/s, tutor (if any), etc. The registration form will be signed by the student, and by the advisor/s and tutor (if any) of the Master Thesis.

The registration of the Master Thesis will be conducted during the period of registration officially established.

Defending the Master Thesis

The student must submit a report reflecting the work done. It will be appreciated that the report is in English. To defend the Master Thesis, the student will deliver four identical paper copies of the report (one for each member of the court and another to give to the administrative manager body of the Master) plus a file in PDF format. The reports should be provided at least one week before the public presentation in order to make it available to the members of the panel to assess the Master Thesis. The precise timing will be made public each semester. The governing body of the Master will publish in electronic form (i.e., in the Master CANS Web site) the Master Thesis submitted, using the requested copy in electronic format (i.e., PDF).

The student will publicly present his/her Master Thesis. The governing body of the Master will nominate the examination panels (composed by chairman, secretary and vocal) each semester to evaluate on certain dates the Master Thesis. The date of defence and the interim composition of the Panels will be announced well in advance. Panels will be defined for the various areas of the Master. The governing body of the Master will assign to each Panel a set of Master Thesis to assess among those registered during that semester.

The presentation of the Master Thesis will consist of an oral presentation of a maximum of 25 minutes. The panel may then make the questions it deems appropriate regarding the content of the Master Thesis.

The administrative managing body of the Master will provide the secretaries of the panels that assess the Master Thesis with evaluation records ("Actas"). These records should be returned to the secretariat of the department of AC, along with a copy of the report, duly signed and evaluated by the members of the panel.

Intellectual property of the Master Thesis will be regulated under current rules of UPC concerning intellectual property of the projects.

The qualification determined by the Panel will be a number between 0 and 10 (with up to one decimal place) with the following ranges:

- Excellent: 9 - 10
- Notable: 7 - 8.9
- Approved: 5 - 6.9
- Fail: 0 - 4.9

The mark of the Master Thesis may be determined by consensus among members of the panel. Should not possible consensus, each member of the panel will grant its numerical mark, which will be reflected in the record of assessment. The final grade will then be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the marks awarded by each of the members of the Panel.