

**Established Guidelines for the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in
Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability's
Master Thesis (2017-18)**

The objective of the Master Thesis is to prepare students for future research work, namely a doctoral thesis or an R + D project in a company. Assessment of students' Master Thesis is not only based on the contents of the paper itself. It also takes into account other essential skills required by a researcher, such as the ability to synthesise information, the discussion of results, the preparation and giving of oral presentations and the appropriate use of language (written and spoken).

The general guidelines for the Master Thesis submission are the following:

- The Master Thesis must include the following sections in addition to the main text (not counting for the word maximum requirement):
 - A cover page stating:
 - Title of the Master Thesis
 - Title of the master's degree (e.g. Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability)
 - Major within the master's degree (e.g. Ecological Economics, Industrial and Urban Ecology, Environmental Technology, Science and Management of Global Change)
 - Title of the journal used as the basis for the paper format criteria
 - Name of the supervisor/s and the Department or Institute where the research has been carried out. The Master Thesis could have up to 3 supervisors. One of them has to be a UAB PhD academic.
 - Date of the paper submission
 - A page immediately following the cover page which must include the following:
 - A description of no more than 500 words of how this project fits within the research of the research group the student has been working in.
 - The "guidelines for papers" for the journal whose guidelines they have chosen to follow.
 - If articles are signed by more than one author need to include a description of no more than 500 words of the work done by the student on the Master Thesis, specifying her/his contribution.
- **Students must submit one hard copy, duly bound** (unbound papers will be not accepted), of their Master Thesis **at ICTA's secretariat**. The committee reserves the right to not accept papers handed in past the deadline. Students are **also required to send an exact copy of the printed version in PDF format by email to coord.master.ambientals@uab.cat**. The file should be named "YearMonth_StudentSurname_MasterThesisTitle.pdf" and the email subject should be "Master Thesis+Student's Name and Surname".
- **Supervisors must send a short report** of the research work carried out by the student, **including a proposed mark for the Master Thesis, to coord.master.ambientals@uab.cat by the submission deadline** (See form at the end of the document). Supervisors must take into account the following aspects: initiative, responsibility, ability to interpret results and any other deemed relevant criteria. At least one of the supervisors must be a professor linked to the UAB.
- **The Master Thesis must follow the standard format requirements for articles published in a SCI or SSCI academic journal, to be specified by the student.**

- **“Appropriate use of language” and “Format” are fundamental qualifying requirements**, which means that a Master Thesis can be failed if it does not meet minimum requirements in these two areas.

Students will be assessed based on the written paper as well as on an oral presentation. They are required to submit a research paper not exceeding 8,000 words or alternatively, the ones established by the journal selected and with the agreement of the supervisor, which may include the following sections:

- Abstract
 - Introduction: antecedents and justification for the Master Thesis
 - Objectives
 - Research study plan and anticipated results
 - Results
 - Discussion of results
 - Bibliography
- The committee should be composed up to 3 members, all of them PhD academics. Exceptionally and if justified, 1 member may not be a PhD academic.
 - The oral presentation is limited between 20 and 30 minutes. The time will be established by the president of the committee and it will be notified to the student before the oral presentation. After that time, the committee will be allowed to ask specific questions about the research project and more general ones about the knowledge earned by the student in their actual major.
 - The final grade for the paper will consist on the average mark of the supervisor's report (30%) and the mark given by the committee (70%) both to the paper itself and to the oral presentation. The supervisor's mark is available upon request.
 - Oral presentations could be held up to 20 days after the submission deadline. Students must consider this in order to guarantee their presence at the scheduled date and time.
 - After the presentation the president will inform to the student the mark issued by the committee and the mark issued by the supervisor in the assessment report.
 - **It is essential that the supervisor's report is handed in by the submission deadline, too. Otherwise, the oral presentation won't be held, even if the student has submitted the paper within the established deadline.**
 - The committee assesses:
 - For the written paper:
 - Appropriate use of language. The paper can be written in English, Catalan or Spanish. Language choice is not a criterion for evaluation and the tribunal will only assess correct and appropriate use of the language chosen.
 - Format: how well this follows the “guidelines for papers” established by the journal chosen by the student.
 - Content and academic originality.
 - Conciseness and meeting the required length (maximum of 8,000 words)
 - Ability to discuss and interpret the results of the research.
 - Interdisciplinary scope of the research.
 - For the oral defence:
 - Students' ability to articulate and express him/herself.
 - Conciseness and meeting the established time limit (30 minutes).
 - Quality of the presentation.
 - Ability to answer the questions asked by the committee.

Other considerations

Any other assessment considerations not included in these guidelines will be established by the person responsible for the Master Thesis module and the coordinator of the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability

Below are the established submission deadlines and dates for the oral presentation for each evaluation period:

| Written paper submission | Oral presentation |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 31/01/2018 | 2 nd week of February |
| 18/06/2018 | 28th June until 5th of July |
| 03/09/2018 | 6th until 12th September |

**** The February sitting is only for previous-year students or students taking additional courses to access the PhD.**

**Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies
in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability**

Master Thesis

Supervisor's assessment report

Student's name:

Supervisor's name:

Department/Institute:

Centre/University:

Study dates:

Report explaining the Master Thesis and research carried out:

Overall mark (0-10):

30% of the final mark

Date and signature:

Mail to coord.master.ambientals@uab.cat