Master’s Thesis Information

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What is a Master’s thesis? And why?

The Master’s thesis aims to demonstrate that the student:

• Can use acquired knowledge and solve a problem in a scientific framework in relation to the study programme
• Has ability to use both verbal and written communication in a professional manner
• Can assimilate the content of relevant literature and relate thesis work to this
• Can critically review and discuss a thesis presented by another student, both verbally and in writing
• Will demonstrate by own initiative to plan and execute thesis work, but also be able to seek guidance and support from the supervisor, as needed
What is included in the Master’s thesis?

The thesis includes 30 ECTS credits at the advanced level (A) in your main subject (= approximate length 20 weeks, one full semester)

This is included:

- **Three** auscultations (0.5 credits)
  - Auscultation = attendance at presentation of a thesis (A level)
- Planning and literature work
- Opposition (1.5 credits)
- Oral presentation
- Reflection document
- Written report
What is required for a Master’s thesis?

The Master’s Thesis is the final step of your Master’s Degree.

Permission to begin the thesis work requires:

• A minimum of 60 ECTS credits from programme courses* (Swedish language courses, or other voluntary courses do not count)
• 30 ECTS credits must be from advanced level courses (A) in the main subject
• Specific department or programme restrictions may apply

*Although permission to begin the thesis work only requires a minimum of 60 credits from programme courses, we recommend that most courses are completed before starting the thesis work. It is not realistic nor ideal to manage both courses and thesis at the same time.
Where can I do the thesis work?

- Internally
  - At a LiU department

- Externally
  - At a company or an organization in Sweden
  - At a company or a university abroad. Contact outgoing@lith.liu.se for more information.
Examiner

The examiner should:

• Be employed by LiU as a professor, lecturer, or research assistant, within the main field of study for the thesis
• Determine direction and main area for thesis, which must be documented by the student
• Be responsible for the supervisor(s) and that they fulfill their requirements as such
• Make sure that the proposed opponent fulfills the requirements for thesis work and has completed three auscultations, before the presentation
• Grade completed thesis presentation, written report, and opposition (pass only)

• Please note! The departments have different policies regarding the appointing of examiners. Most common is that you need to find one yourself.
Supervisor

The student needs a supervisor from the department where the thesis work is registered. Supervisor and examiner must be different persons.

The supervisor should ensure that the student is assisted with:

• Expert support in general methodology, subject area and writing the written report
• Formulating problems and helping with demarcating the thesis work
• Time-related planning and choice of appropriate methods

When the thesis work is performed outside of LiU, a supervisor from the thesis placement should also be assigned to the student.
Planning report

Content:

• Preliminary title – to give a clear picture of the orientation of the work (may be changed)
• Preliminary formulation of the problem – a background to the problem. Also describe expected result
• Preliminary description of approach
• Planned basis of literature
• Time plan – detailed: Weekly activities and progress + planned dates for half-way control and presentation
Half-way control

Half-way through:

• Report to your examiner the progress of your work – as compared to the time plan
• Supervisor should also attend
Presentation

- Takes place when the examiner finds it suitable, in agreement with the student
- Must take place at LiU, Faculty of Science and Engineering
- The presentation must be open to the public
- After the presentation, opposition follows, as well as time for questions
Opposition

• The opponent must fulfill the same requirements for credits and level and must have completed **three** auscultations

• The opponent shall:
  • Discuss and comment on choice of methods, results, and dataprocessing, conclusions, possible alternate solutions and conclusion, as well as source documentation
  • Comment on the principal disposition of the thesis report and relate formal stylistic aspects, as well as the verbal presentation
  • Illustrate the merits and shortcomings of the presented thesis

• The opposition shall be as long as the presentation

• One week before the opposition, the examiner and the opponent should go through the work
Written report

• The written thesis work report should be in detail and professionally written, as well as show a scientific meaning

• Is public after the presentation
  • This can cause problems if the thesis is carried out in the industry → seek advice from the examiner
  • Read more about publication here:
    http://www.ep.liu.se/exjobb/
Reflection document

• Reflection as to how the thesis work relates to the programme goals

• Which knowledge has been most useful? What new knowledge and skills did you have to gain or complement?

• Reflection on your own work:
  • Planning
  • Implementation
  • Writing the report
Application

Follow the instructions here:

www.lith.liu.se/for-studenter/anmalan-till-exjobb?sc=true&l=en

There is no use in applying before you fulfill the requirements!
To keep in mind

Usually faster to do work in pairs instead of one

• Discuss with someone who is involved
• Share and discuss ideas
• Support each other
• Read the report and support each other with reading and writing

Think about who this person can be if you would like to work in pair
More to keep in mind

The process to get an examiner and supervisor may take 1-2 months

-> Start well in time

Don’t start your thesis without approval from your examiner

The examiner decides when work is ready to present
FAQ

Do I have to finish in 20 weeks?

- No, the examiner decides when the work is done and ready to be presented
- However, the department is not obliged to offer supervision more than **18 months**
- However, plan to finalize within 20 weeks – stricter requirements from the Migration Agency
- **Check requirements from the Migration Agency!**

I don’t know where to start looking for a thesis work!

- Discuss with professors and teachers within your programme
- See the webpages of the departments – list is included
- Contact interesting companies! Check websites
- Student sections’ webpages
- Xamera.se

When, where and how will my thesis be published?

- Check with your department
- Electronic publishing is optional
FAQ - continued

Can 2 students work together?
• Yes, you work alone or together with one other student. 3 or more = not allowed
• If you are two, each student’s contribution must be presented so that the examiner can see that both authors have contributed equally
• The total scope and documentation must correspond to 2 individual theses

Where can I find the thesis work course code?
• https://www.lith.liu.se/examensarbete/kurskoder-for-examensarbeten?l=en&sc=true

Can I go abroad for the thesis work?
• Yes, this might be possible. Read more here: https://www.student.liu.se/ut/erasmus-placement?l=en
• Contact outgoing@lith.liu.se for more information

Do I have to start or register for the thesis in January?
• No, it is possible to start later. Talk to the department about it.
TEXMAS and TQxx30

TEXMAS is the course code where the auscultations and opposition are reported. Make sure you are registered! Re-register every semester.

TQxx30 (xx = depending on the main subject) is the course code for the thesis work. When you fulfill the requirements for starting the thesis work, and the application has been approved by:

1. Study Advisor
2. Examiner/Director of Studies/Thesis Coordinator

this course code will be added in your Student Portal. You will be able to register for the thesis work in the Student Portal on the semester when your thesis work starts – normally the 4th semester of your programme (VT2019).
Requirements for Master of Science

• a Bachelor’s degree as specified in the entrance requirements
• course requirements for a total of 120 ECTS credits from finished courses from the curriculum for the programme, or after special decision from the programme board, and thesis work
• passed the requirements for all mandatory courses
• courses on advancement level A (advanced) 90 ECTS credits including:
  • at least 30 ECTS credits courses from the main subject
  • a 30 ECTS credits Master’s thesis in the main subject
• (For some programmes*) at least 45 ECTS credits from courses in mathematics or applications of mathematics from the Bachelor level (basic) or Master level (advanced), see list of specific courses
• a Master’s thesis presented and passed as per Linköping University, Faculty of Science and Engineering degree regulations.
• Courses overlapping each other regarding contents are not allowed to be included in the degree. Courses used for the Bachelor’s degree can never be included in the Master’s degree.  

* see list on next page
Mathematics: requirement of 45 credits

- Still for these programmes:
  - BME, CSY, ELE, MSN
- Withdrawn for these programmes:
  - AER, IND, MEC, SUS, TSL (for students starting in 2016 or later)
  - CS (for students starting in 2017 or later)
- Not applicable for these programmes:
  - DES, ECO, ETH, KOS
Checklist

✓ Find an interesting and suitable thesis work
✓ Contact a teacher with knowledge in the area
✓ Talk to the department
✓ Apply!
✓ Register for TEXMAS – for the auscultations
✓ Register for the thesis work course code: TQxx30

Checklist for the report – guidance for examiner, supervisor and student:
www.lith.liu.se/examensarbete/examensarbete-civ- ing/1.617620/Checklistfordegreeprojectatgraduatelevel_s.pdf
Academic English Support

- Open to all students
- To improve written and spoken English
- Increase confidence
- Individual feedback

Read more here:
www.liu.se/ikk/aes?l=en
Plagiarism – and how to avoid it

Every year, a number of students are reported to the Disciplinary Board for plagiarism – sometimes simply because they don’t know the rules for referencing and quoting. Make sure you are not one of them!

• Presenting others material without reference is not allowed

• When writing a report:
  Write your own text
  – You are not allowed to copy others work, part or whole text.

• Also important to go through your text a few more times, look at it in different way and discuss it.

• Keep updated here http://noplagiat.bibl.liu.se/default.en.asp
Links

Department specific thesis work information:
www.iei.liu.se/student/exjobb?l=en&sc=true
www.isy.liu.se/en/edu/xjobb/
www.itn.liu.se/Student/examensarbete?l=en&sc=true
www.ifm.liu.se/undergraduate/

- As well as lists of upcoming presentations, good to know for the auscultations!

Application for the Degree Certificate:
www.student.liu.se/examen?l=en
Stay updated! Check out FSE Master's Coordinators new webpage:

https://www.lith.liu.se/master-s-students?l=en