

Guidelines for JEMES-CiSu Master Thesis at the UAB

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 synthesize 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:
 - A cover page stating:
 - Title of the Master Thesis
 - Title of the master's degree
 - Title of the journal used as the basis for the paper format criteria
 - Name of the supervisor and co-supervisor, as well as the Department or Institute where the research has been carried out
 - Date of the paper submission
 - Immediately following the cover page, each in a separate page:
 - A description of no more than 500 words of the work performed by the student. When the article resulting from the Master thesis is co-authored by researchers other than the student, the supervisor, and the co-supervisor, it is important that the student specifies his/her contribution in this section.
 - 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.
 - A description of no more than 500 words of how this thesis is framed within the objectives of the JEMES-CiSu programme.
 - A section of no more than 500 words with the name of the journal chosen for submission of the thesis, including a short explanation of why and how the work fits the impact area of the journal. Please include a summarized description of the guidelines of the journal, including word limit and preferred article structure.
 - Main text:
 - The main text must be written article-style according to the journal chosen, adhering to the journal's limit in words (normally not more than 8000 words), figures, and tables.
 - In the acknowledgement section of the article, JEMES-CiSu scholarship holders must include the following: This research has been possible thanks to the Erasmus Mundus scholarship awarded to (*student name*) by the European Commission contract number (for example: 2007-0070/001/FRAME MUN123).
 - Supporting Information can be attached at the end.
- **Students must submit a copy of the Master Thesis in PDF format by email to jemes.icta@uab.cat 10 days before the chosen defense date.** There are two dates for defending a thesis at the UAB: 1) early July or alternatively, 2) early September. The local coordinator will announce the exact dates well in advance. The file should be named "Year_StudentLastname_ThesisTitle.pdf" and the email subject should be "JEMES CiSu Master Thesis StudentLastname".

- **Supervisors must send a short report** of the research work carried out by the student, **including a proposed grade for the Master Thesis, to jemes.icta@uab.cat 10 days before the chosen defense date**). There are two dates for defending a thesis at the UAB: 1) early July or alternatively, 2) early September. The local coordinator will announce the exact dates well in advance. Supervisors must take into account the following aspects:

- Initiative, responsibility, autonomy
- Ability to interpret results
- The Master Thesis follows the standard format requirements for articles published in a SCI or SSCI academic journal specified by the student.
- Appropriate use of language and format

It is essential that the supervisor's report be handed in on time. Otherwise, the oral presentation cannot take place, even if the student has submitted the thesis within the established deadline.

- The oral presentation is limited to a maximum of 20 minutes. After that time, the committee will be allowed to ask specific questions about the research project and more general ones about the knowledge gained by the student.
- The final grade for the paper will consist on the supervisor's evaluation (30%) and the grade given by the committee (70%) after the defense, based on both the written work and the oral presentation.
- The committee assesses:
 - For the written paper:
 - Appropriate use of language. The paper must be written in English and appropriate use of language and format is required.
 - Format: how well this follows the "guidelines for papers" established by the journal chosen by the student, including word limit.
 - Content: is the research question clearly stated? What is the contribution of this article to the scientific community (i.e. what research gap does it aim to fill?) ; are results clearly presented?
 - Scientific rigor and novelty of the work.
 - 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 (20 minutes).
 - Quality of the presentation.
 - Ability to answer the questions asked by the committee.

Other considerations

These guidelines are specific for the UAB, and they are to be applied in addition to the Master Thesis guidelines common to the JEMES-CiSu consortium, available at the ICTA JEMES-CiSu website.

**Joint European Masters in Environmental Science-
Cities and Sustainability**

Master Thesis

Supervisor's assessment report

Student's name:

Supervisor's name:

Co-supervisor's name:

Department/Institute:

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 jemes.icta@uab.cat