

Information for Companies about Bachelor's and Master's Theses, Faculty of Science and Technology

Introduction

The various study programmes at the Faculty of Science and Technology (TN) include the following theses:

- Bachelor's thesis, which concludes a 3-year bachelor's degree. This is worth 20 ECTS (study credits). This is equivalent to full-time work for two-thirds of a semester, or roughly 600 hours of work according to the faculty's norms. Included in those 20 ECTS will be a mandatory individual study unit covering the theory of science and ethics. Both the bachelor's thesis and the essay in Philosophy of Science and Ethics must be passed before the final grade and credits are given in the course. Up to three students can work on the same thesis.
- Master's thesis, which concludes a master's degree programme at the Faculty of Science and Technology. This normally has a scope of 30 ECTS but some study programmes have a scope of 60 ECTS. 30 ECTS is equivalent to full-time work for a full semester. Master's theses are individual pieces of work. Nevertheless, two students can work on the same project.

In order for these projects to be carried out in an enterprise, some minimum requirements must be met. These are addressed in the following sections.

1 Supervision

The enterprise must be able to provide a supervisor for the student(s). The scope of the supervision can vary greatly based on the nature of the project and the students concerned. At least 1-3 hours per week for preparation work and supervision meetings should be expected.

2 Deadlines

Important deadlines and more are provided in Table 1 below.

Thesis:	Bachelor's thesis, 20 ECTS	Master's thesis, 30 ECTS	Master's thesis, 60 ECTS
Deadline for publishing projects by the department, faculty or external enterprise	15 Oct	15 Oct	15 Mar
Deadline for the formal acceptance of projects	15 Jan	1 Feb	15 Sept
Thesis semester	Spring	Spring	Autumn and spring
Submission deadline	15 May	15 Jun	15 Jun

Table 1 provides an overview of relevant dates for bachelor's and master's theses.

To be included in the autumn announcement of thesis projects, the faculty must receive the project statement (at least a half page) by the announcement deadline shown in Table 1.

3 Thesis

At the start of the project, students must produce a timetable for the project.

At the end of the project, students submit the thesis and any product in the form of hardware and/or software.

During the semester, students usually produce a status report at least once a month.

The form of the thesis must satisfy the requirements set by the University of Stavanger. Since a great deal of weight is attached to the assessment of the written thesis, it is important that students set aside sufficient time for this even though enterprises do not always consider this to be an optimal use of time. The thesis's introduction should include the following: the project statement, the motivation and goals for the project, the framework for the work, the approach taken, the structure of the thesis, etc.

- After the introduction comes the *necessary background material*, i.e. the theory and considerations relevant to the thesis.
- The following chapter must then present the solution to the project.
- The thesis will end with a *discussion* of the results and a *conclusion*.
- Right at the end come the reference list and relevant appendices.
- Before the introduction comes an *abstract* and *table of contents*, as well as any *acknowledgements*, lists of table and figures, etc.

4 Proprietary rights and restricted access

The following rules on proprietary rights and restricted access apply to theses:

Students own the copyright to their thesis. Students have the right to publish their thesis, or parts thereof, as a separate dissertation or as part of a larger work, or in popularised form in any public publication. However, this does not, without consent, apply to any material that has been made available by an enterprise and which is disclosed directly in the thesis or in an appendix to it. Correspondingly, the consent of the course coordinator is required to disclose material that they have made available.

The submitted copies of the thesis along with any drawings, models and apparatus, as well as computer software included as part of or as an appendix to the thesis, are the property of the University of Stavanger. The University of Stavanger is free to make copies of all or parts of the thesis and appendices for teaching and research purposes. The student(s) must be named on each copy as prescribed by the law and good practice.

An enterprise or institution that has contributed to the work is entitled to receive a copy of the thesis and its appendices and is also entitled to be informed of the University of Stavanger's assessment. The enterprise or institution may use the contents of the thesis in its activities.

Any use of the thesis beyond what is specified in sections 5.1-5.3 of the *Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Theses* at the Faculty of Science and Technology must be agreed in an agreement between the University of Stavanger, the enterprise, and the student(s).

The Faculty of Science and Technology wants as many bachelor's and master's theses as possible to be public. Therefore, the faculty asks that, wherever possible, enterprises come up with topics for theses that

do not require restricted access. However, if it is deemed necessary, contributing enterprises/institutions can apply to impose restricted access to a thesis, normally for a period of 2 years and a maximum of 5 years. Applications concerning this must show that publication could result in significant harm. A special agreement must be signed concerning restricted access. The faculty has drawn up an *Agreement concerning Restricted Access to Bachelor's and Master's Theses*, which can be used for this.

Applications for restricted access should normally be received by the department when a project is formally accepted. Should a need for restricted access arise at a later time, an application for restricted access must be delivered by no later than 14 days before the submission deadline. Restricted access for periods of up to 2 years are decided by the head of department based on the recommendation of the course coordinator. Applications in excess of this are decided by the Dean.

5 Other conditions

Be cautious about offering students paid work alongside their thesis. If you do offer it, it should be limited to a maximum of 7.5 hours per week.

6 Contact

The faculty's email address is: post-tn@uis.no

7 Attachments

Examiner's Guide for Bachelor's Theses or *Examiner's Guide for Master's Theses*.