Master’s Thesis Information

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Agenda

- Aim, goal and relevance of master’s thesis
- The new process at the department
- The process of writing a master’s thesis
- General requirements

Important reading: “Instructions for theses…” C2016-0973

General guidelines

Information

- More information about the spring activities will be provided at the department web site at the latest November 30
- During the master’s thesis process communication will be via pingpong
Aim

“to develop in-depth knowledge, understanding, ability and approaches within the parameters of the education”
Goal

“to demonstrate the knowledge and ability required for autonomous work as Master of Science”
Relevance

To give knowledge and skills in

• formulating, analyzing and solving a practical and/or theoretical problem by applying theoretical knowledge,
• collecting and analyzing empirical data, and
• presenting the process and results.

• Running a small project, you own the process!
• The result is relevant to the students, the company/initiator and Chalmers
Confidentiality

- Your thesis MUST end up in a public report
- Pass/Fail judgement is based on this report
- "Enough" material must be included
- Sensitive information:
  - put in Appendix or left out
  - company/industry anonymous
  ...

Read more about

• Learning objectives
• Roles and responsibilities
• …and other things…

• …in "Instructions for theses…” C2016-0973
The new process in short

- Spring 2017 is a pilot
- One entry point
- The registration will be open twice a year, once for each of the spring and fall semesters – not over summer
- Additional student support: method lectures, mandatory peer review and opposition – practicalities will be solved for students abroad
- Master’s thesis conference (June 1)
Master’s thesis process
How do I find a topic?

• Chalmers Library

http://publications.lib.chalmers.se/cpl/

Electronic versions of master’s thesis - Limit the search to only include “Examensarbete för masterexamen”

http://publications.lib.chalmers.se/search/advanced/

• The department web page


• Master’s thesis blog

www.thethesishub.com
About topics

- The topic needs to fit your master programme profile – and be approved by the Master’s programme director – this step is included in the new process.

- The topic must be on a **scientific/technical level** that represents a considerable more in-depth knowledge of the subject of study.

- You may decide to involve a company or not.
- If you did so, develop a proposal and contact relevant companies.
How to find a master’s thesis

What is important to you?
Learning about an industry – specific topic, finding a job after you graduate, contacts

What projects did you like to work with?
Talk to guest lectures, talk to companies that were involved in courses

When talking to companies…
- Remember that about 300 students are looking for a master’s thesis…
- It is always easier to look at a proposal – don’t be afraid to be specific and express what you want to study and how you want to study it (you also come across as more serious!)
- Communicate why the company you are looking at would be a good case for your study!
- You need to communicate about your master’s program and what you’ve learned so far
- Give examples of your knowledge and your skills, highlight cases that you have worked on, what you found interesting about that case and how you applied your knowledge and skills
When you have a proposal

• There is only one entry point for your proposals

• Register to write your master’s thesis at:

• Deadlines for the registration for the spring semester of 2017 are December 5th, 24.00 and a late registration deadline (only for this pilot due to restricted timeframes) on January 9th, 24.00
The form

• Write down the courses taken that form the theoretical basis of your master’s thesis

• Writing in pair with NN from the programme XX
  – NB it is strongly recommended/mandatory to write in pairs

• Other information

• Attach file – company proposal etc.
Thesis process during the spring

1. Define topic, registration
2. Define problem, formulate goals, plan project
3. Redefine problems, achieve goals, report/write
4. Write, oppose, present

Regular process supported by method lectures, peer review sessions (mandatory) and opposition session (mandatory), master’s thesis conference (mandatory)
Method lectures 2017

• To support your work, method lectures are provided

• January: introduction and research question, linking theory and practice

• March: writing the master’s thesis
Peer Review

• To get feedback on the Master theses from peers before handing them in to the examiner

• It is an excellent practice in giving and receiving constructive feedback that will help the authors to improve the final version

• To read the thesis draft critically and to engage in a constructive and helpful discussion of some of the main areas that may be improved with focus on the problem formulation, choice of literature and method

Detailed information will be provided in due time at pingpong
Opposition, Late May

Supervisor /examiner(s) and his /her students

1 hour per group

2 groups or more

One group gives its feedback to the other, then the group’s supervisor enters the discussion and give her/his own comments.

Start with a brief presentation of your own work, then let the opponents give feedback
Oral presentation, June 1

- Master’s thesis presentations will be organized as a conference with parallel tracks
- Students, teachers, company representatives, family, friends etc are invited!
- More information will be provided in due time at pingpong
Student group owns the process:
suggesting and defining the topic, finding and reading literature, finding empirical examples and companies, setting up meetings, booking interviews, setting deadlines, formulating questions, writing drafts, presenting method and tentative results, checking out formalities

Supervisors support the process:
answering questions, reading and commenting drafts, participating in meetings
Passing the thesis work

Read more about the requirements in “Instructions for theses…” C2016- 0973
Use the “Work card” to document attendance and performance.

For a thesis to be approved, following stages must be completed:

• An approved planning report and an approved thesis
• An approved verbal presentation and defence of the thesis
• Approved opposition of another thesis
• Attendance of two other verbal thesis presentations
• All Master’s theses must be registered in Chalmers Publication Library
Ping pong

When you register through the web form you will be added to the ping pong page for the master’s thesis (after deadline):

• All formal information in the course is posted at pingpong, therefore it is important that you regularly check the pages for updates!
• All communication e.g. students final reports etc. are handed in via pingpong