Agenda

• Aim, goal and relevance of master’s thesis
• General requirements
• How we work at the department of Technology Management and Economics
• The process of writing a master’s thesis
Important reading

“Instructions for theses of the Master of Science in Engineering, Architecture and Master of Science Programmes”
(C2016- 0973)

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
Preconditions for starting work on the thesis

“In order to start work on the thesis, students on the Engineering/Architecture programmes must have earned at least 225 credits on the programme.

Students who have only been enrolled on the Master’s programme must have earned at least 45 credits within the programme.

As well as the general credit requirements, the courses provided necessary prior knowledge for the specific thesis shall have been completed. The examinerformulates and checks such prior knowledge requirements.”

(Instructions for theses on the Master of Science in Engineering, Architecture and Master of Science Programmes Reg. No. C 2016-0973 )
Read more about

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

• …in ”Instructions for theses…” C2016- 0973
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
  • ...

Master’s thesis process in short

• One entry point
• The application is open twice a year, once for each of the spring and fall semesters (mainly spring)
• Master’s thesis presentation (May/June)
Master’s thesis process at TME Spring 2021

1. Students apply to write their thesis in pairs, deadline November 30th, 2020
2. The department processes the applications and allocates supervisors/examiners and notifies the students before Christmas (December 22nd)
3. Supervisors make first contact with students (when the term starts in January)
4. Presentation/opposition of the work (May/June)
5. Examination
How do I find a topic?

• Chalmers Library
  https://odr.chalmers.se/home.jsp?locale=en

• The department web page

• Miljöbron
  miljobron.se
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 administrative 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 many 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

• Apply to write your master’s thesis via the form at: https://www.chalmers.se/en/departments/tme/education/masters-thesis/application-for-supervision/Pages/default.aspx

• Deadline for the registration for the spring semester of 2021 is November 30\textsuperscript{th} 24.00

• You will be notified before Christmas (December 22\textsuperscript{nd})

• You will be contacted by an administrator who supports with formal registration of the master’s thesis and provide additional information
The application form

• The form should be filled in once per degree project, i.e. both students will fill in information in the form (the degree project is carried out in pairs)

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

• Describe the project as accurately as possible to facilitate the decision-making process within set deadline

• Other information: information that may be interesting for us to find you the most suitable supervisor
Writing in pairs

• The master’s thesis is carried out in pairs (individually - only in exceptional cases)

• We do NOT accept the following reasons for writing alone: employment, placement abroad or outside Göteborg, agreement with a company etc…
  • If you don’t have a partner, the process will be delayed
  • Don’t fill in the form before you have a partner

Thesis process during the fall

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

“The student/s shall produce a written planning report which is to state in detail the problem description/task. The planning report shall include background, preliminary aim, objectives, demarcations, method and timetable for production of the thesis. In the planning report, the student/s shall clarify the societal, ethical and ecological aspects that need to be taken into account in accordance with learning objectives 9 and 10. Reasons should be given if such aspects are not taken into consideration.”

Decide together with your supervisor when the planning report should be handed-in.
Deadlines spring 2021

• Planning report
  Decided together with supervisor

• Send report for opposition
  At the latest 1 week before the opposition

• Presentation/opposition
  End of May/beginning of June

• Final report
  Decided together with supervisor
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 defense of the thesis
• Approved opposition of another thesis
• Attendance of two other verbal thesis presentations
• All Master’s theses must be registered in ODR (Chalmers Open Digital Repository)
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 and continuously keep the supervisor informed about the progression of the work.

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

Examiner approves the master’s thesis
Canvas

- When you are register at the course you will be added to the Master’s Thesis course in Canvas (TEKX08).
- All formal information in the course is posted at Canvas, therefore it is important that you regularly check the pages for updates! (i.e deadlines, information in relation to the presentation, how to proceed after the presentation …)
- All communication e.g. students final reports etc. are handed in via Canvas
Questions

• Regarding the application, the form or other practical questions thesis.tme@chalmers.se

• If you have questions whether the thesis is within the main area of the Master’s Programme, please contact your programme director
  • Entrepreneurship and Business Design: Mats Lundqvist
  • Management and Economics of Innovation: Erik Bohlin
  • Quality and Operations Management: Ida Gremyr
  • Supply Chain Management: Robin Hanson