Master Projects
VU-UvA Information Sciences
Who are we

Master Project Coordinators

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Master Project Schedule

• **Period 3: Thesis Design**
  – 6 ECTS
  – Thesis Design Presentations - 1 week of Feb

• **Period 4-6: Master Project**
  – 18 ECTS
  – Some flexibility in scheduling
    • 12 ECTS in Period 5
    • 12 ECTS spread over periods 4 and 5
  – Final Thesis Presentations - July
Information Sciences Master

Wiki of the Thesis design and Master project Information sciences.

This wiki page offers information for the master students on how to participate and complete the mandatory Master project.

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Thesis Design and Master project courses

The Master project which is mandatory for all students consists out of two courses that both have to be completed. The courses are:

- Thesis Design (Code: X_405087)
- Master Project Information Sciences (Code: X_405063)

There are a number of phases that the students will have to go through in choosing and participating in a project:

- Orientation
- Thesis design
- Master Project

Further information about the requirements and obligations in these different phases will be given in the following section.

Orientation

Choosing a subject

Choosing a subject
http://tinyurl.com/ISMMasterProjects

https://wiki.cs.vu.nl/mp/index.php/Information_Sciences
(deprecated but interesting)
Master Project Timing

• It’s time to think about your thesis subject

• You need to have a thesis advisor by Dec 15:
  – Explore topics/projects at MP Wiki
  – Speak with MSc coordinator
    • HCM & Web & Media: Victor de Boer v.de.boer@vu.nl
    • BIS: Henrik Leopold h.leopold@vu.nl
    • Request a meeting via email
Master Project Types

• **Internal:**
  – typically in ongoing research project

• **External:**
  – VU/UvA staff member as a supervisor
  – avoid conflict of interest if you have are employed
  – MSc project is a scientific and **NOT development** project
Select a subject that motivates you 101% 

- Literature study 
  - IF no literature THEN not an appropriate topic 
- Research proposal (4 pages) 
  - State of the art of the literature 
  - A clearly defined research problem and question 
  - Project plan (how?) 
  - Methodology 
  - Timeline 

- Upload Thesis Design 
Master Project Thesis Design

• Two meetings
  – After two weeks, to discuss progress
  – After four weeks, final presentation
Grading by supervisors:

- Research design (75%)
- Presentation (25%)
Master Project Procedure

• Carry out plan
• At least bi-weekly meeting with supervisor(s)
• You are in charge!
  – Prepare issues to discuss
  – Send progress reports
  – Make notes
• Document sharing while you go along:
  – Dropbox, GoogleDrive, etc.
  – Thesis is not written at the end
Master Project Presentations

- **Your choice**
  - Report
  - ACM-style research article (approx. 15 pages)

- **Presentation**
  - At university
  - At company, if external
  - Feb: Thesis Design
  - July: Final Thesis

- **Upload Thesis & Presentation**
Master Project Assessment

• Assessors
  – Supervisor: VU/UvA staff member
  – Second Reader: VU/UvA staff member
    • keep second reader in loop from beginning
  – Advice from external supervisor, if applicable

  – Quality of research
  – Team work
  – Presentation
  – Independence, initiative
Requirements for UvA students

• We will require UvA students to follow the course 'Thesis Design' in case they wish to carry out their master project under the guidance of a VU supervisor.