

# D-BIOL – Master’s thesis and Master’s examination form

<b>Student Name and Student No.</b>			
<b>Title of thesis</b>			
<b>Referee*</b>		<b>Co-Referee*</b>	

\*Referee and Co-Referee must be entitled to supervise and evaluate a Master’s thesis according to the list under:

<https://www.biol.ethz.ch/studium/master/masterarbeiten.html>

## Master’s thesis – Grading Criteria

Subject of evaluation is the uncorrected and as final version submitted Master’s thesis.

<b>Thesis</b>	<b>Practical work</b>
<p><b>1. Abstract and Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concise overview of the research field relevant to the Master’s thesis, and identification of important open questions</li> <li>• Clear description of the problem addressed in the thesis, and clear statement of the project goals</li> <li>• Appropriate literature citations in a uniform and consistent style and format (applies to whole thesis)</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Lab / Field work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality and conclusiveness of experimental work</li> <li>• Independent organization of experimental procedures</li> <li>• Flexibility and efficiency</li> <li>• Solid understanding of the theory behind experimental techniques</li> <li>• Detailed and traceable documentation of the experimental work in the lab book</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Methods and Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and complete description of the methods used such that all experiments can be reproduced by others</li> <li>• Clear description of the logic and hypotheses underlying the choice of performed experiments</li> <li>• Clear and complete presentation and correct interpretation of the experimental results</li> <li>• Appropriate quality and quantity of results</li> <li>• Correct presentation and labelling of figures and tables</li> </ul>	<p><b>5. Experimental design and data handling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent design or independent adaptation of originally provided design of experiments</li> <li>• Ability to change experimental design if necessary based on experimental outcome</li> <li>• Understanding of the purpose, possibilities and limitations of the applied experimental techniques</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Discussion and Conclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concise discussion and critical evaluation of the obtained results with respect to the original goals</li> <li>• Discussion of the results into a more general context within the research field</li> <li>• Discussion of the possibilities and limitations of the applied experimental techniques</li> <li>• Formulation of new hypotheses, outlook for future work</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicative attitude in the laboratory</li> <li>• Ability to ask for and make constructive use of advice</li> <li>• Initiation of and contribution to scientific discussions</li> <li>• Clear presentation of the project and the results in group meetings</li> </ul>

## Master's thesis – Grading (Swiss grading system: see footer)

	Referee grade Thesis	Co – Referee grade Thesis
1. Abstract and Introduction		
2. Methods and Results		
3. Discussion and Conclusions		
	<b>Referee grade<sup>1</sup> Practical work</b>	
4. Lab / Field work		
5. Experimental design		
6. Communication		

<sup>1</sup>: If the Master's thesis was not performed in your laboratory (i.e. outside of the ETH), please discuss criteria 4 - 6 with the external supervisor.

The study administration will calculate the final grade and enter it into eDoz.

Calculation: ( $\emptyset$  grade referee +  $\emptyset$  grade co-referee) / two. The result is rounded to the nearest quarter grade.

## Master's examination – Grading (Swiss grading system: see footer)

In the one-hour oral Master's examination, a student must provide proof of general knowledge in the elective major chosen. Based on the Master's thesis further experiments and experimental strategies can be discussed in order to test the general understanding in the chosen major. As a rule, the discussion of the Master's thesis covers about 50% of the total examination time. The referee and the co-referee of the thesis act as examiners. If necessary, a third, approved examiner may be called. The referee and co-referee grade the examination with a single grade.

**Master's examination grade** (by referee and co-referee):  
(the study administration will enter the grade into eDoz)

### Signatures

Referee:

Co-Referee:

.....

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*Please*

*send this form as a pdf file to [studies@biol.ethz.ch](mailto:studies@biol.ethz.ch)*

*or*

*send this form as hardcopy to the student administration  
using the address box on the right side*

ETH Zürich
StuDiensekretariat Biologie
HIT F 41.2
Wolfgang-Pauli-Str. 27
CH 8093 Zürich

### Grades according to the Swiss system

**5.75–6.0** (excellent), **5.25–5.5** (very good), **4.75–5.0** (good), **4.25–4.5** (satisfactory), **4.0** (pass), **3.5** (fail), **3.0** (fail, poor), **2.5** (fail, very poor), **2.0** (fail, extremely poor), **1.0** (fail, not measurable)

The above grades are not fixed to a distribution function and are not awarded according to predetermined percentiles or numerical scores. A student's grade in a subject is more related to the student's mastery of the material than to the relative performance of his or her peers.