

# Food Science Study Programme

## Instructions for completing a master's thesis

Supplemental to Art. 31 of the *Studienreglement 2017* programme regulations (German only) for the master's degree programme.  
The article is listed on Page 2 of this document.

1. The **subject** will be drawn up by the thesis supervisor. Authorised master's thesis supervisors include the professors and Privatdozents (lecturers) of D-HEST or D-USYS, Agricultural Sciences. Students may enquire about possible subjects directly with the professors.
2. Prior to working on the master's thesis, the student must register it with the Food Science study administration office using the required **form**. The form has to be handed in by e-mail (PDF format). The agreed-upon master's thesis must be submitted for approval to the Department Conference (DK). The form is published on the website.

<https://www.hest.ethz.ch/en/studies/food-science/documents.html>

3. The student must also **register the master's thesis electronically** on myStudies once the above form has been submitted. If a master's thesis is carried out across two semesters, the registration must be made in the semester in which the major part of the work is completed. The thesis has to be registered only once. The study administration office will confirm the registration after the DK has approved the master's thesis.
4. The **scope** of the master's thesis is 30 credits (900 work hours), which corresponds to an average workload of 28 weeks.
5. The student must carry out the work for the master's thesis independently. The supervisor will supply the necessary infrastructure (lab, etc.) and check the progress of the work.
6. **Components and grading:**

With grading:

- Written scientific paper (80% of grade); both the supervisor and co-supervisor will assess and grade the work (generally within 4 – 6 weeks of thesis submission).
- 15 - 20 min. presentation in front of an audience of experts during colloquia held twice a year (20% of grade). Both the supervisor and co-supervisor will assess the presentation.

Without grading:

- Poster (A0 format) with results, presenting method, or project.

7. Work on the master's thesis **begins** once all criteria defined in Art. 31 of the *Studienreglement 2017* have been fulfilled. The deadline for submitting the master's thesis is 28 weeks. An extension of the submission deadline is only possible for health reasons on presentation of a medical certificate. Requests for deadline extensions must be sent to the director of studies using the applicable form published on the website.

<https://www.hest.ethz.ch/en/studies/food-science/documents.html>

8. The conditions for **participating in the master's degree graduation ceremony** are:
  - either the presentation has been given and the poster has been submitted;
  - or the written paper and the poster have been submitted.

9. **Submission** of master's thesis:

- Written paper: The master's thesis must be submitted by e-mail in PDF format to the study administration office. The project definition and the signed declaration of originality must be included at the front of the paper, before the table of contents. The thesis will be forwarded to the supervisor and co-supervisor of the thesis from the study administration office for evaluation and subsequent archiving. The study administration office does not keep an archive of theses.

- **Poster:** The poster must be created in consultation with the supervisor. Posters must be submitted on time in A0 format and as an A4 PDF to the study administration office in order for the student to be authorised to take part in the poster presentation and the subsequent master's degree graduation ceremony. The poster may be picked up at the study administration office after the poster exhibition.
10. The study administration office calculates the average of both grades from the presentation and the thesis, records and enters the **grade** in the performance assessment system, and informs the student by email. The students receive the assessment sheets containing the assessments made by the supervisor and co-supervisor of the written paper and the presentation.

Information: <https://hest.ethz.ch/en/studies/food-science/master/master-regulation-2017/regl-2017-masters-thesis.html>

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Excerpt from the *Studienreglement 2017* programme regulations:

*Important: English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.*

**Art. 31 Master's thesis**

<sup>1</sup> Students will only be accepted to complete a master's thesis if they have:

- a. successfully completed the bachelor's degree programme;
- b. fulfilled any necessary requirements for the programme; and
- c. have at least 30 credits in master's degree studies.

<sup>2</sup> The director of studies may approve exceptions to the requirements of Para. 1, Pt. c in response to a justifiable request. There may be no exceptions to the requirements of Pts. a and b.

<sup>3</sup> Authorised master's thesis supervisors include the professors and Privatdozenten (lecturers) of D-HEST or D-USYS, Agricultural Sciences. The director of studies may approve exceptions in response to a justifiable request. Authorisation by the Department Conference as per Para. 5 remains reserved.

<sup>4</sup> The master's thesis is generally completed within the subject area of the selected specialisation. The director of studies may approve exceptions in response to a justifiable request. Authorisation by the Department Conference as per Para. 5 remains reserved.

<sup>5</sup> The following are subject to authorisation by the Department Conference:

- a. the subject of the master's thesis;
- b. the supervisor of the master's thesis;
- c. the co-supervisor of the master's thesis.

<sup>6</sup> The supervisor of the master's thesis will define the project and determine the contentual criteria necessary for the assessment. The director of studies will regulate the details of the assessment in a separate document.

<sup>7</sup> The deadline for submitting the master's thesis is 28 weeks <sup>(15)</sup> (full-time studies). The director of studies may authorise a deadline extension if the student submits justifiable reasons in writing.

<sup>8</sup> The master's thesis is considered completed once the written paper has been submitted, the oral presentation has been given and the poster has been created.

<sup>9</sup> To grade the master's thesis:

- a. The supervisor and co-supervisor each grade the student's performance.
- b. The final grade of the master's thesis is calculated as a mathematical average of the two grades listed in Pt. a.

<sup>10</sup> The master's degree is awarded if the final grade is at least 4.

<sup>11</sup> A failed master's thesis may only be repeated once. If it is repeated, a new subject must be studied. The thesis may be repeated under a different supervisor.

<sup>12</sup> A completed master's thesis may not be repeated.

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<sup>15</sup> The 28 weeks are made up of: 26 weeks of actual thesis work, plus 2 weeks as flat compensation for official holidays, illness and other short-term absences.