

Agricultural Sciences (AGRW) degree course

Implementation provisions concerning the master's thesis and master's degree

Legal basis: Study Regulations 2016 for the Agricultural Sciences master's programme Art. 32
The wording can be found at the end of this document.

1. The **subjects** are set out by the professors of the Agricultural Sciences degree course, and may be requested directly from them. The **senior person** (= supervisor) is responsible for the binding scope of tasks and adherence to the timetable. The Master's thesis is written in English, but in exceptional cases can also be written in one of the CH national languages.
2. The student registers the master's thesis with the AGRW study administration using the **registration form** provided and before starting work. The agreed master's theses are submitted to the departmental conference for approval.
3. The **documentation** of the master's thesis in **myStudies** is made by the student after the registration form has been submitted. The AGRW study administration confirms the documentation once approval has been given by the departmental conference.
4. The master's thesis **accounts for** 30 credit points (900 working hours), which corresponds to an average workload of six months.
5. The student shall complete the master's thesis independently. The senior person ensures that the **necessary infrastructure** (laboratory, etc.) is available and reviews the progress of the work.
6. Components and **grading**:

With a grading:

- Written **scientific report** (80% of the grade): both the supervisor and the co-supervisor evaluate and grade the thesis, usually within 4–6 weeks.
- **Presentation** of 20 min. with following 10 min. discussion as a closing presentation in front of a panel of experts (20% of the grade). Both the supervisor and the co-supervisor evaluate the presentation.

Without a grading:

- Poster (A0 format) with the results, a presentation of the method or of the project.

7. The master's thesis shall **begin** once the criteria in accordance with Art. 32 have been fulfilled. The **submission date** for the master's thesis is based upon the information provided on the registration form. A justified **extension** may be applied for by the senior person at the AGRW study administration.
8. The conditions for participation in the master's ceremony are:
 - either that the presentation has been held and the poster submitted;
 - or that the written thesis and the poster have been submitted.
9. **Submission** of the master's thesis:

Written thesis:

The Student submits her/his MSc thesis (incl. project description and declaration of originality - *to be inserted before the table of contents*) as PDF to the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor with cc to Study Administration (agr-sciences@usys.ethz.ch). Beforehand the Student clarifies with both the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor whether she/he additionally wants a hardcopy.

- The poster (portrait format) is handed in together with the MSc thesis by e-mail. **Important:** They do not grade the poster; it's about they have seen it and give their ok for Graduation ceremony.

If the MSc thesis submission date is set after the Graduation ceremony, then the poster must be sent in advance as a PDF file to the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor by e-mail for the ok. Please follow the instructions in the Infomail regarding the Graduation ceremony.

Poster:

The submission to the AGRW study administration within the deadline of the poster in A0 format and a PDF in A4 format entitles the student to take part in the poster exhibition and the subsequent master's ceremony. The posters can be collected again from the study administration following the exhibition.

10. The AGRW study administration determines the **average** of the two grades from the presentation and the written thesis, records the grade and enters it in the performance assessment system. The students receive the assessments sheets with the evaluations of the written thesis and the presentation made by the supervisor and the co-supervisor

Excerpt from the Study Regulations 2016

Art. 32 Master's thesis

¹ Only those students will be accepted onto the master's thesis, who:

- a. have successfully concluded the bachelor's degree;
- b. have fulfilled all possible requirements for admission onto the degree course; and
- c. have acquired a total of at least 60 credit points in the master's programme, whereby the internship has to have been successfully completed and/or the corresponding 30 credit points have to have been obtained.

² The Director of Studies may grant exceptions to the admissions requirements in accordance with Section 1, subsection c if a corresponding petition is sufficiently substantiated. There are no exceptions to the admissions requirements in accordance with subsections a and b.

³ Professors who teach on the Agricultural Sciences degree course are entitled to act as supervisors (senior person) of a master's thesis. The Director of Studies may grant exceptions if a petition is sufficiently substantiated. This remains subject to the approval of the departmental conference in accordance with Art. 5.

⁴ The master's thesis is usually written in the field of the chosen specialisation. The Director of Studies may grant exceptions if a petition is sufficiently substantiated. This remains subject to the approval of the departmental conference in accordance with Art. 5.

⁵ The following also requires the approval of the departmental 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.

⁶ The supervisor of the master's thesis defines the scope of tasks and sets out the content-related criteria for assessment. The Director of Studies sets out the details of the assessment in separate implementation provisions.

⁷ The maximum permissible time to be spent working on the master's thesis is six months (full-time study). Upon request, the Director of Studies may extend the period to be spent working on it if there is good cause.

⁸ The master's course ends with a written report, an oral presentation and the design of a poster.

⁹ The following applies to the grading of a master's thesis:

- a. The supervisor and the co-supervisor evaluate the work with one grade each.
- b. The grade of the master's thesis is calculated as the mean average of the two grades referred to in subsection a.

¹⁰ The master's thesis has been passed if the grade is at least a four (4).

¹¹ A master's thesis that has not passed may only be repeated once. If it is to be repeated, a new subject must be chosen. The master's thesis may be repeated with a different supervisor than at the first attempt.

¹² A master's thesis that has passed may not be repeated.