

Criteria for the evaluation of the Master's thesis

Revised: on 20 September 2012

Assessment criteria	5 (Excellent)	4 (Good)	3 (Good)	2 (Satisfactory)	1 (Satisfactory)	Fail
Choice of topic						
The purpose of the Master's thesis is to develop and prove the student's ability to apply scientific information, to use the selected methods for analysing and solving problems of working life and to work in independent, demanding expert duties. (Government Decree on the Polytechnics, 15 May 2003/352)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – topic is notably current, innovative and particularly significant for the development of working life – choice of topic is comprehensively justified, and the topic is closely related to the need for developing the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – topic is current and important for the development of working life – choice of topic is clearly justified – topic is related to the need for developing the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – topic is justified with the need for developing a single working-life organisation or the field in general – approach is conventional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – topicality and connection with professional field or significance for the development of working life is inadequate – choice of topic is insufficiently justified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – topic is not connected with the aspect of developing working life or the field and is based on the author's personal interest – choice of topic is poorly justified or not justified at all 	Criteria for a failed performance have not been defined because the supervision process aims at a pass.
Use of theoretical basis (studies, literature, empirical data)						
use of theoretical basis and construction of framework – field-specific development challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – framework tied to the theoretical basis demonstrates the student's comprehensive and critical familiarity with current knowledge and methodological theoretical basis related to the thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – framework demonstrates the student's comprehensive familiarity with knowledge and methodological theoretical basis related to the thesis – framework steers the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – some familiarity with the theoretical basis related to the thesis and methodology, but the basis is only partially structured as a framework steering the thesis – theoretical basis builds on the objectives of the development task or the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – theoretical basis related to the thesis and methodology is rather limited and framework is unstructured – the used theoretical basis only partly supports the structure of the thesis and the methodological processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – theoretical basis related to the thesis and methodology is inadequate and poorly serves the objectives, purpose and methodological processes of the thesis 	

	– framework clearly and logically steers the structure of the thesis and the methodological processes	structure of the thesis and the methodological processes – theoretical basis has been used appropriately, and it has been applied logically in the thesis	central concepts			
– source material	– source material is current, comprehensive, international and of a high quality – source material has been selected critically and used skilfully and comprehensively, aiming at synthesis	– source material is current, comprehensive and critically selected – source material has been used skilfully, aiming at personal conclusions	– source material is up-to-date and comprehensive – source material has been used appropriately	– source material is mainly up-to-date but inadequate and one-sided – source material has been used like in a scrapbook	– source material is inadequate and one-sided	
Implementation and results						
background, objectives and definitions	– purpose, objectives and problem are clearly defined and reasoned – definitions are clear and well-founded	– purpose, objectives and problem are clearly defined and partly reasoned – definitions are clear	– purpose, objectives and problem are defined but insufficiently reasoned	– purpose, objectives and problem are described	– purpose, objectives and problem are described fragmentarily and not reasoned	
choice, suitability and command of methods	– methods selected successfully in relation to the objectives of the thesis – use and justification of methods demonstrate an excellent command thereof – chain of reasoning is reliably and critically justified	– methods selected appropriately in relation to the objectives of the thesis – use and justification of methods demonstrate a good command thereof – chain of reasoning is reliably and well justified	– selected methods are suitable for the thesis – use and justification of methods mainly in command – chain of reasoning is clearly expressed	– selected methods are suitable for the thesis but insufficiently used – selection of methods is explained superficially or insufficiently – chain of reasoning is insufficiently expressed	– selection of methods is rather unsuccessful – explanation for the selection of methods is missing or faulty	
Reliability of results/outputs	– attainment of objectives set for the thesis and factors influencing it are recognised and reported transparently	– attainment of objectives set for the thesis and factors influencing it are mainly described – results and outputs	– attainment of objectives set for the thesis and factors influencing it are expressed – results and outputs are reported	– attainment of objectives set for the thesis and factors influencing it are insufficiently evaluated – results and outputs are presented in an	– attainment of objectives set for the thesis and factors influencing it are inadequately evaluated – results and outputs are presented superficially or	

	– analytical and reflective approach is manifest in the structured way of presenting the results	are reported clearly, thoroughly and carefully		unstructured manner	fragmentarily	
Usability of results/outputs in the development of working life	– results/outputs are significant and applicable to the development of the field	– results/outputs are convincing and applicable to the development of the field	– results/outputs are significant for the client or output is generally interesting for the field	– usability of results/outputs is limited	– results/outputs have little significance	
Conclusions, connection between results/outputs and theoretical basis	– conclusions are constructively commented and justified on the basis of the material – reflection on the theoretical basis is convincing and insightful – thesis constitutes a well-functioning, balanced and logical entity	– conclusions are clear from the perspective of the development of the field – clear connection between results/outputs and theoretical basis	– conclusions are justified – results/outputs and theoretical basis support each other	– conclusions are superficial – reflection on the connection between results/outputs and theoretical basis is insufficient	– conclusions are inadequate – reflection on the connection between results/outputs and theoretical basis is missing	
Discussion	– discussion is critical, profound and convincing – further plans are well justified and insightful	– discussion is thorough and convincing – further plans are justified and feasible	– discussion is comprehensive – further plans are presented	– discussion is superficial or fragmentary – further plans are forced or inappropriate	– discussion is inadequate – no further plans are presented	
Reporting						
Written expression	– lively, fluent, correct and analytical factual language – headings successfully illustrate the central content and aspects of the thesis – references and list of references have been systematically prepared in accordance with SAMK's instructions (or	– fluent, correct and analytical factual language – headings express the central content and aspects of the thesis – references and list of references have been systematically prepared in accordance with SAMK's instructions (or other official reference	– clear and mainly correct factual language – headings express the central content of the thesis – references and list of references have been mainly prepared in accordance with the instructions	– mainly correct factual language – headings are non-specific or fragmentary – references and list of references have been partly prepared in accordance with the instructions	- major deficits in language – headings are fragmentary and illogical – referencing does not comply with the instructions or comprises several different styles	– thesis has no logical structure – plenty of incorrect language use – clumsy and incorrect sentences – references are insufficient and faulty

	other official reference instructions)	instructions)				
Layout	– thesis layout is careful and entity is appropriately illustrated	– layout is clean and complies with the thesis instructions	– layout mostly complies with the thesis instructions	– layout deviates greatly from the thesis instructions	– layout is unfinished and does not comply with the thesis instructions	– layout does not comply with the thesis instructions

Weighting coefficients

Choice of topic	15%
Use of theoretical basis (studies, literature, empirical data)	30%
Implementation and results	40%
Reporting	15%