

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF MASTERS THESES

Master's Thesis

Master's theses are academic texts that should demonstrate the student's competence of engaging independently with scholarly issues of their chosen field in a factual and methodologically correct manner. The thesis should reflect the student's analytical abilities to reflect on the relationship between theoretical and empirical research and to develop a cogent and convincing argument.

A master's thesis should meet the following requirements:

- Clearly defined research question in supervisor's area of expertise (Habilitationfach)
- Coherent argument
- Description of research objectives and presentation of results
- Disclosure of and reflection on working method
- Overview of current state of research and critical positioning of thesis
- Independent use of primary sources and/or independently collected empirical data
- Original quotations (especially from easily accessible authors/sources)
- Comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography
- Use of MLA citation format (in-text citations, footnotes and bibliography)

A master's thesis should be between 100 and 150 pages in length, and bound.

If written in a foreign language (e.g. English), the master's thesis should be 80–120 pages long.

Supervisor and Submission:

- Supervision of master's thesis takes place during official semester period = lecture period (winter semester and summer semester).
- Master's thesis can be submitted chapter by chapter (this must include title page with name, phone number, email address and complete bibliography) – supervisor is given a minimum of 2 weeks to correct chapter.
- Revised chapters/thesis must be discussed in person with supervisor (not by email, phone, or mail).
- Master's thesis must be submitted to Examination Office (Prüfungsreferat) 2 months before the defensio, and all appointments and deadlines must be met.

Other notes and comments:

- Attached template is to be used for thesis cover page.
- It is recommended to format thesis as it will be submitted in final version from the beginning, i.e. double-spaced with 5cm wide left margin.
- Master's thesis that has been partially or fully plagiarized will be graded "unsatisfactory" (as determined by Rector).

Titel der MA

Masterarbeit
zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades
Master of Arts
an der Philologisch-Kulturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät
der Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

Institut für Amerikastudien

Eingereicht bei:

Eingereicht von: Name

Im Monat Jahr