

## Thesis guidelines

### About the thesis in general

- a. The thesis must be an original academic work. This does not only mean that plagiarism is forbidden (which is obvious), but also that the thesis should possibly aim at retrieving and analyzing pertinent primary sources (jurisprudential cases, economic statistics, archival sources, international agreements, presidential speeches and parliamentary debates, press articles, oral sources, etc.).
- b. The thesis must be approximately 220,000 characters long (excluding spaces, title page, index, acknowledgments, and bibliography), plus a summary of 10,000 characters (excluding spaces). This summary is not the “abstract” to be included in the online application for the submission of the request to graduate. It is a different text that must be included in the thesis.
- c. The thesis can be written in English or in Italian (not in other languages). If the thesis is in English, the summary must be in Italian; if the thesis is in Italian, the summary must be in English.
- d. The thesis must have an "international" content, that means that it must deal with actors, norms and forces active in international relations.
- e. The topic of the thesis must be consistent with the study plan undertaken. Theses on topics and disciplines unfamiliar to the student should be avoided.

### Role of the supervisor

- f. The supervisor is generally a RIC teacher. If the supervisor is not a RIC teacher, the student must communicate it to the Teaching board and receive the Teaching board’s approval.
- g. The supervisor must be chosen for their academic competence on the topic of the thesis (methodological approach, disciplinary interest, etc.). It is a good practice to contact a teacher whose courses the student has attended, in order to be familiar with the themes and methods favored by the future supervisor. Alternatively, in more exceptional cases, the student can get an overview of the topics and approaches on which each teacher is competent by analyzing the profiles of the teachers as well as the syllabi of their current and past courses.

- h. Check on the teacher's personal page if they have published personal guidelines about the thesis. Before contacting them, read those suggestions carefully.
- i. According to Ca' Foscari regulations, the supervisor must help in the first stage of the research design, and has a "guiding role" for the student. The intellectual responsibility for the thesis lies with the student. Therefore, the tasks of the supervisor, who is in no way a co-author, should be:
  - 1. to help in identifying the main topic
  - 2. to suggest general bibliographic references and to provide instructions on how to create a systematic bibliography
  - 3. to discuss the research method
  - 4. to communicate the writing style rules
  - 5. to indicate colleagues (at Ca 'Foscari or other universities) who could provide further bibliographic or methodological information
  - 6. to read and comment on the work plan and the bibliography
  - 7. to read and comment on at least one chapter in order to point out strengths and weaknesses of the work (but not to correct mistakes or grammar errors, let alone correct the revised versions of the text)
  - 8. to provide feedback about the other chapters.
- j. The supervisor decides whether to admit the thesis to the discussion (they may indicate to the student the opportunity to withdraw the thesis from the discussion at any time).

## Deadlines

- k. A master's thesis takes time to be conceived, to carry out the research, to draft the text, to discuss the entire work with the supervisor, to make all the necessary changes and additions. The ideal time to do the job is about a year, certainly no less than eight months. Therefore, indicatively, the following deadlines can be imagined for each "target session":
  - October session: thesis agreed between October of the previous year and January
  - March session: thesis agreed between March and July of the previous year
  - July session: thesis agreed between July and September of the previous year