

**Established Guidelines for the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in
Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability's
Master Dissertation 2023-2024**

The objective of the Master dissertation is to prepare students for future research work, namely a doctoral thesis or an R + D project. Assessment of students' Master dissertation is not only based on the contents of the paper itself. It also takes into account other essential skills required by a researcher, such as the ability to synthesise information, the discussion of results, the preparation and giving of oral presentations and the appropriate use of language (written and spoken).

The general guidelines for the Master dissertation submission are the following:

- The Master dissertation must include the following sections in addition to the main text (not counting for the word maximum requirement):
 - A cover page stating:
 - Title of the Master dissertation
 - Title of the master's degree (e.g. Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability)
 - Major within the master's degree (e.g. Ecological Economics, Industrial and Urban Ecology, Environmental Technology, Science and Management of Global Change)
 - Title of the journal used as the basis for the paper format criteria
 - Name of the supervisor/s and the Department or Institute where the research has been carried out.
 - Date of the paper submission
 - A page immediately following the cover page which must include the following:
 - A description of no more than 500 words of: a) how this project fits within the research of the research group the student has been working in, or b) how paper comes from your own particular interest.
 - The "guidelines for papers" for the journal whose guidelines they have chosen to follow.
- Students are required to submit a PDF file with the dissertation's final version to the submission folder available in the Campus Virtual by the submission date (see the end of this document). The file should be named "YearMonth_StudentSurname_MastherDissertationTitle.pdf".
- **The Master dissertation could have up to 3 supervisors. One of them has to be a UAB PhD full time professor / researcher.**
- **Supervisors must send a short report** of the research work carried out by the student, **including a proposed mark for the Master dissertation, to coordinacio.master.saes@uab.cat by the submission deadline.** Supervisors must take into account the following aspects: initiative, responsibility, ability to interpret results and any other deemed relevant criteria.
- **The Master dissertation must follow the standard format requirements for articles published in a SCI or SSCI academic journal, to be specified by the student.**
- **"Appropriate use of language" and "Format" are fundamental qualifying requirements,** which means that a Master dissertation can be failed if it does not meet minimum requirements in these two areas.

Students will be assessed based on the written paper as well as on an oral presentation. They are required to submit through the Campus Virtual platform a research paper not exceeding the number of words established by the journal selected and with the agreement of the supervisor. The paper may include the following sections:

- Abstract
 - Introduction: antecedents and justification for the Master Thesis
 - Objectives
 - Research study plan and anticipated results
 - Results
 - Discussion of results
 - Bibliography
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- The committee should be composed of 3 members, all of them UAB PhD full time professors or researchers.
 - The oral presentation is limited to 15 minutes. The time will be established by the president of the committee and it will be notified to the student before the oral presentation. After that time, the committee will be allowed to ask specific questions about the research project and more general ones about the knowledge earned by the student in their actual major.
 - The final grade for the paper will consist on the average mark of the supervisor's report (30%) and the mark given by the committee (70%) both to the paper itself and to the oral presentation. The supervisor's mark is available upon request.
 - Oral presentations will take place on the periods that appear at the end of this document. Specific dates will be announced in advance by each specialization coordinator. These coordinators will be the ones who will arrange the date, time, place and the composition of each committee.
 - After the presentation the president will inform to the student the mark issued by the committee and the mark issued by the supervisor in the assessment report.
 - **It is essential that the supervisor's report is handed in by the submission deadline, too. Otherwise, the oral presentation won't be held, even if the student has submitted the paper within the established deadline.**
 - The committee assesses:
 - For the written paper:
 - Appropriate use of language. The paper can be written in English, Catalan or Spanish. Language choice is not a criterion for evaluation and the tribunal will only assess correct and appropriate use of the language chosen.
 - Format: how well this follows the "guidelines for papers" established by the journal chosen by the student.
 - Content and academic originality.
 - Conciseness and meeting the required length of the journal (example: maximum of 8,000 words)
 - Ability to discuss and interpret the results of the research.
 - Interdisciplinary scope of the research.
 - For the oral defence:
 - Students' ability to articulate and express him/herself.
 - Conciseness and meeting the established time limit.
 - Quality of the presentation.
 - Ability to answer the questions asked by the committee.

Other considerations

Any other assessment considerations not included in these guidelines will be established by the person responsible for the Master dissertation module and the coordinator of the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability

Below are the established submission deadlines and dates for the oral presentation for each evaluation period:

Written paper submission	Oral presentation
01/02/2024	*February 5 th - 9 th
18/06/2024	June 20 th - July 4 th
30/08/2024	September 2 nd - 4 th

* The February sitting is only for previous-year students or students taking additional courses to access the PhD.