



## Guidelines for the preparation of the MASTER thesis

The **Master thesis** should follow the structure of a scientific **paper** and be edited in **English**. Length: 25-50 pages (Times New Roman format, 12 pts in 1.5 line spacing).

Major chapters:

**Abstract** – (approx. one page). The abstract shall reflect the content of the paper, be informative and include the most significant results of the research. The abstract shall not contain references to figures and tables and the bibliographical references will also be avoided.

**Key words** (on the same page with the abstract, following the abstract) – include the relevant scientific terms on the addressed theme (maximum 7 terms that can be composed of several words, i.e. sustainable development).

### Introduction

Introduction to the research topic, containing:

- Objectives of the paper
- Relevance of the topic
- Synthesis of the data available in the international literature.

### Experimental part

- The devices/equipment used
- The methodology / working techniques
- Explain how the research was conducted and what methods were selected

### Results and discussions

- Research description
- Analysis of original results and their discussion in the context of the literature available in this field.

### Conclusions

### References

All the references mentioned in the **References** section should be indicated in the paper. Most frequently, the references are written in alphabetical order.

**Example** for the drafting of reference list for the master thesis.

#### Articles:

1. Atapour, H. (2015). Geochemistry of potentially harmful elements in topsoils around Kerman city, southeastern Iran. *Environmental Earth Sci.* 74:5605–5624. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-015-4576-3>.



2. Egessa, R., Nankabirwa, A., Ocaya, H., & Pabire, W.G. (2020). Microplastic pollution in surface water of Lake Victoria. *Science of the Total Environment* 741, 140201. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140201>.

**Books:**

3. King C., Park, A. (2007). *Advanced environmental monitoring* (2nd ed.), John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, 682 p., New York.

**All the references should be cited in the text** between brackets, as follows: if there is a single author (Point 1), this is indicated within brackets (Atapour, 2015), if there are 2 authors (Point 3) the following citation should be used (King and Park, 2007), and if there are 3 or more authors (Point 2) this should be cited as (Egessa et al., 2020). The References section should also include the webography indicating the address of the website and the accession date (Accessed: day, month, year).

- All the references cited in the master thesis should include **at least** 30 recent literature references (at least 20 articles, 5 books and/or 5 website links)
- At least 1/3 of the cited papers should be published over the last 10 years.

**Formatting:**

- The length of the dissertation thesis shall be 25-50 pages, excluding the cover, the contents and the list of references – typed in Times New Roman format, 12 pts in 1.5 line spacing, margins of 2.5 cm / except the left margin which should be 3 cm;
- The cover of the dissertation thesis is A4. The paper shall be printed and may be bound in a book binding shop or it can be spiral bound. The title page shall repeat information on the cover and it contains the title of the master thesis.

**The defence of the master thesis:**

- Oral presentation in English based on a presentation document (PowerPoint, 10-15 slides. 2/3 of the slides will include original contributions or results of the student).
- Presentation time: 10 min
- Questions from the examination commission and discussions based on the approached topic (5 minutes).

**Note!** *The concept of **experimental part** refers both to the students' work in the laboratory (according to the chosen topic) and to the students' work in the field (sampling activities).*