

MSc REM Fact Sheet, 2019 version

Thesis

The master's thesis is a research paper in which candidates demonstrate their capabilities of using scientific methods to research a topic in their field of study.

How do I find a thesis topic?

- Generally, you can approach the professors from your elective track specialisation classes or the energy conversion modules. It is your responsibility to choose a thesis topic.
- A listing of previous REM thesis topics is available on ILIAS to give you some ideas.
- Companies and research institutes may also post master's thesis positions that will help you decide on a topic.
- What are you interested in? You have the option to propose a thesis topic of your interest, provided it also suits your preferred supervisor's research goals.

How do I find a supervisor?

- It is your responsibility to find an appropriate supervisor as well as a second examiner. A default starting point is to approach the professors from your specialisation classes.
- At least one supervisor (or examiner) must be affiliated with the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources or the Faculty of Engineering.
- Full, assistant, and honorary professors, lecturers, and selected researchers with special permission can supervise and review your master thesis. In most cases, a researcher holding 'only' a doctoral degree CANNOT be an independent supervisor or reviewer of an MSc thesis.
- One supervisor can come from outside the University of Freiburg but in this case must have a professorship at a University.
- The full administrative thesis guideline maintains the listing of official thesis supervisors from our university.

What is a thesis proposal?

- The thesis proposal is a document that outlines the research gap you have identified and contains a description of your planned research.
- Though not a formal requirement (anymore), many supervisors expect you to write a thesis proposal prior to starting your thesis.

- It is often developed with your first supervisor and can be an iterative process.

How do I register for the master's thesis?

- The earliest time you may begin your master's thesis is during the 3rd semester, after you have accumulated at least 70 ECTS credits.
- You register for the thesis in person at the examination's office. The form required is available at ([link](#)).
- Your future supervisor must sign the document.
- You will receive a confirmation letter by post confirming your thesis registration.

How long do I have to work on the thesis?

- You have exactly six months to complete the thesis from the date of official registration.
- The examination office will accept the thesis no earlier than four months after registration, and it is important to note that you are not allowed to work on your thesis before the official starting date.

What happens if I get sick? Can I extend the thesis work?

- In the event of illness, or in substantiated exceptional cases, the thesis deadline can be extended by a maximum of six weeks.
- The extension application must be presented as soon as possible to the examination office.
- Official medical documentation must accompany the extension application in case of illness.

Where/how do I submit my thesis?

- Three copies and a CD-ROM of the thesis must be submitted to the examination office in typed and hard bound copies by the deadline. Spiral binding is not an accepted format.

How will my thesis be graded?

- The thesis will be evaluated and graded by your supervisor and second examiner within six weeks of submission.
- The final grade of your master thesis is the average of the two grades awarded by the two examiners.
- To pass, the master thesis must be graded as 'sufficient' (4.0) or better.
- If the thesis is submitted after the date stated in the confirmation letter, the thesis will be graded 'unsatisfactory' (5.0).