

Guidelines for the Master's Thesis and Final Module

M.A. Political Science

1. General Information

- A prerequisite for admission to the master's thesis is the **successful completion of Modules P 1 to P 4**.
- The master's thesis can be written in either the **winter or summer term**.
- It is recommended but not required to be completed exactly in the 4th semester. If you do not initiate the master's thesis by the **end of the 5th semester** at the latest, both the thesis and the associated exercise will be considered attempted once and marked as "not passed." A reattempt must then take place in the 6th semester.

2. Procedure

- December – February (summer term) or July – August (winter term):
Select a topic and find a supervisor

Before registration, students independently choose a topic and draft an exposé. Students select a supervisor and apply with their exposé. The list of available supervisors will be published on our homepage. If the master's thesis is to be supervised externally, the approval of the Examination Committee is required.

- February (summer term) or August (winter term):
Register the thesis and start writing

Registration for the Master's thesis and the accompanying seminar for the Master's Thesis is done via the [registration form](#). Students provide their filled-out registration form with their information to their supervisors. The supervisors complete the form with the specific thesis topic, sign it, and forward it to the program coordinator within the registration period that can be found on our homepage. Separate registration through LSF is not required either for the master's thesis itself nor for the seminar accompanying the master's thesis.

- July (summer term) or February (winter term):
Submit the thesis

After the writing period has ended, the master's thesis must be submitted to the [Examination Office](#) in two copies with either adhesive or spiral binding. Please take note of the submission deadline applicable for the respective semester, as well as the [opening hours](#) of the Examination Office.

- October (summer term) or April (winter term):

Get your diploma

The completion documents for the M.A. program will be issued by the Examination Office only when grades for all course-related assessments are available. You will receive a notification from LSF when all grades have been submitted.

3. Formalities

- The **cover page** of the master's thesis must include the following information:
 - "Master's Thesis for the M.A. Political Science at LMU Munich"
 - Title of the thesis
 - Student name, matriculation number, address, phone, email
 - Name of the supervisor and their official work and email address
- The **topic** can be changed only once and within two weeks after registering the thesis with the Examination Office.
- The **writing time** for the master's thesis is exactly 22 weeks from the start date.
- The **length** of the master's thesis should be approximately 180,000 characters (including spaces, footnotes, and endnotes, excluding appendices), which is roughly equivalent to 80 pages of text.
- Alongside the bound thesis, a separate sheet with a handwritten and signed **declaration of originality** must be submitted in German language. An example can be found in the Moodle course "[GSI Arbeitstechniken](#)."
- In case of **failure**, the thesis can be reattempted only once in the following semester and only with a new topic. The topic for this attempt can be changed once within two weeks after it is assigned, but only if this topic was not written about during the initial attempt. The same supervisor may oversee the revised thesis.
- The Master's theses are subject to plagiarism checks, and if **plagiarism** is detected, they will be marked as "not passed." In severe cases, the Examination Committee may decide to exclude the student from further attempts.
- Concurrently with the master's thesis, the **corresponding seminar** for the thesis will be conducted with the same supervisor throughout the semester. No online registration through LSF is necessary for this seminar. As part of the seminar, you are required to present your master's thesis in a presentation (lasting 30 to 60 minutes). This presentation will be assessed separately.

4. Publication of master's thesis

Graduates have the option to publish their final thesis on the "[Open Access LMU](#)" publication platform provided by the University Library. Master's theses are featured in the GSI publication series "[Munich Contributions to Political Science](#)". All final theses graded 1.3 or better are eligible for consideration. If you are interested in such publication, kindly submit your work in PDF format to the [program coordinator](#).