

MA Dissertation Rules for the Programme *Field Archaeology on Land and under the Sea*

The Master Dissertation is expected to be a long essay on a subject that fits in the scope of the programme, and it must constitute a considerable contribution to science.

Students are expected to demonstrate that

- a) they can plan and execute an academic research project, and
- b) write up the results in a comprehensive scholarly way.

The project should be based on data derived from material culture, fieldwork, laboratory research, historic sources and academic literature.

Each student is responsible to work on the preparation of their thesis subject and discuss it, either with the programme coordinator first, or directly with the instructor that has the expertise to supervise it. There is no chronological or geographical limits to the thesis subject, as long there is a member of the academic staff in the Department of History and Archaeology who has the expertise to supervise it. The supervisor is responsible to guide the student through the different processes of the thesis preparation and authorize its final submission to the examining committee.

Before the start of the research, the supervisor has to agree on a written research proposal, which should include:

- a) The topic and its archaeological context
- b) The main research questions and methodology
- c) The basic bibliography

Length/ Workload

The MA dissertation should be approximately 20,000 words long (bibliography and appendices not included), plus the necessary figures and tables. MA dissertations, however, should not exceed the limit of 30,000 words (all parts included).

The thesis is examined by a (two- or three- member) committee, after a public defense by the candidate.

It is credited with 20 ECTS*, as follows:

10 ECTS for the research phase, **9 ECTS** for the writing phase, and **1 ECTS** for the thesis public defense.

*25-30 hours of work = 1ECTS

Examination Timeline

Based on this programme's curriculum, any student can complete their MA dissertation **by the end of the third semester**. In order to do so, however, it is important to prepare systematically during the first year and start working on the thesis, as soon as the second semester is over. It is useful to know that according to the [Postgraduate Studies Rules](#) of the

University of Cyprus (p.13, 4.1) it is possible to take more time for the thesis preparation: *The maximum permitted time for completing a Master's programme is eight (8) semesters. Any postponement or interruption of studies is not included in the eight (8) semesters.* Nonetheless, students are strongly discouraged from prolonging their MA studies unnecessarily, because this may have a negative impact on their professional profile or career opportunities

The final draft of the thesis should be submitted to the examining committee no later than **1 November** (Fall semester) or **1 March** (Spring semester).

The only exception to this rule applies to dissertations submitted during the **third semester** of this Programme. In this case,

- a) the supervisor should receive the final draft 45 days before defense, which should be completed before the end of the semester, and
- b) the dissertation should be submitted to the members of the examination committee, no later than two weeks before the date of the defense.

Should a Dissertation be rejected, the student is allowed to resubmit it one more time. It is provided that the Dissertation must be re- submitted within eight (8) semesters, which is the maximum length of attendance for a Master postgraduate student

Students are responsible to keep these deadlines. Supervisors or Examining Committee members that do not receive dissertations in time, keep the right to withdraw from their role, which can have serious repercussions on the student's graduation.

Master Dissertations are graded with the qualitative characteristics Excellent, Very Good, Good, and Fail.

MA diplomas are given at the end of each semester, twice a year (end of February and June).