

**A12.3_MASTER’S DISSERTATION
REGULATIONS
OF
JOINT MASTER DEGREE PROGRAMME IN
“FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE: INTERDISCIPLINARITY
AND CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES”**

**(General Assembly of the Department of History, Archaeology and Social
Anthropology, 19-06-2024)**

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INTRODUCTION

The composition of the MA dissertation (M.D.) is compulsory, aiming to evaluate the postgraduate student's capacity to write a substantial and original piece of academic work.

At least one semester is required for the completion of the M.D. Each student has the option to spend the third semester at one of the three collaborating institutions participating in the Joint Master Degree Programme (JMDP): a) Department of History, Archaeology, and Social Anthropology of the University of Thessaly, b) Department of History of the Ionian University, or c) Department of Humanities of Roma Tre University.

The M.D. is written in the English language unless permission is granted by the Steering Committee to be developed in another language.

The main body of the M.D. must range from 15,000 to 20,000 words. The M.D. may exceed the recommended word count following approval from the supervisor.

SUPERVISION

For each student the Curriculum Committee appoints a scholar as supervisor the M.D., following the recommendation of the Steering Committee. The supervisor is responsible for the scientific oversight of the Master Dissertation and is appointed by the Steering Committee upon request of the candidate. The candidate's application should include the proposed title of the dissertation, the proposed supervisor, and a summary of the proposed dissertation. A three-member Examining Committee is responsible for the examination of the M.D. The committee is composed of the supervisor and two other scholars who are either faculty members or researchers of recognized research institutions, holding a PhD in the same or related scientific discipline as the Master Dissertation topic.

The number of Master Dissertations that each instructor can supervise should not exceed five (5).

MASTER DISSERTATION

The M.D. has a clearly research-oriented character and a topic related to one of the courses of the JMDP. It is publicly defended before a three-member Examination Committee (1 supervisor and 2 scholars) established by the Steering Committee, following a proposal from the Director of the JMDP. The members of the Examination Committee must hold a PhD in the same or related scientific discipline as the M.D. topic. The approval of the thesis entails that the students will publicly defend it before the three-member Examination Committee (1 supervisor and 2 scholars), at their chosen institution. The date and place of the defense is determined by the Coordinating Committee. Following the approval of M.D. by the three-member examination committee, it is compulsorily to be posted on the website of the Institutional Repository of the University of Thessaly: <http://ir.lib.uth.gr>.

In exceptional cases, if there is an objective inability or significant reason (such as illness, absence abroad, etc.), it is possible to replace the supervisor or a member of the Examination Committee after a decision by the Director of the JMDP and the approval of the Steering Committee.

DISSERTATION GUIDELINES

During the second semester, the candidates should specify the topic of the M.D. in the Secretariat of the JMDP and they should complete it by the end of the third semester. After declaring the M.D. topic, the candidate in consultation with the supervisor, submits to the Secretariat of the JMDP the topic of the M.D. along with a research proposal, including indicative bibliography (up to 1000 words).

After the supervisor approves the research proposal and the topic of the M.D., it is announced to the Assembly of the Steering Committee and with any doubts resolved by the latter.

The process of selection and submission of the dissertation topic, along with its announcement at the Curriculum Committee, is completed before the end of the second semester of studies.

The candidate may change the topic with approval from the supervisor, provided they offer a valid justification. A change of supervisor may also be approved by the Steering Committee in cases of serious necessity, such as a change in topic, inconsistency of the student, or other exceptional circumstances.

Throughout the preparation of the M.D., the supervisor oversees its progress. The student is required to have regular meetings with his/her supervisor (at least once a month). In case the candidate is inconsistent in attending regular meetings for two consecutive months, the supervisor has the right to resign from supervising the M.D.

The process of preparing the M.D. includes its writing.

When the candidate deems that the M.D. is ready to be examined, they shall submit the final draft for reading and feedback to the supervisor. Based on their comments, the candidate makes the final corrections and submits the revised draft, no later than twenty (20) days before the defense date.

DEFENSE OF MASTER DISSERTATION

The defense of M.D. should be scheduled no earlier than three (3) weeks after the submission of the final draft to the supervisor and during the exam period. The Secretariat announces the M.D. defense date and disseminates it on the official website of the JMDP.

The M.D. is publicly defended before the three-member Examination Committee.

The candidate presents his/her research project in an open lecture, and subsequently he/she responds to questions first from the Examination Committee and then from the audience. Finally, the members of the Examining Committee discuss privately and grade the M.D. The grade is announced to the candidate and the Examination Committee submits to the Secretariat of the JMDP a report where the M.D. grade is indicated.

The grading scheme of the M.D. is subdivided from zero (0) to ten (10). The minimum grade for passing is five (5). In case of a candidate fails the M.D. examination, he/she is entitled to repeat the defense one more time. An alternate evaluation date is determined by the Steering Committee, at least three (3) months after the first defense. If the candidate fails again, they are considered to have failed the degree.

The grade of the M.D. corresponds to 40% of the grade of the Joint Master's Degree (JMD).

PUBLICATION OF THE MASTER DISSERTATION

Following any suggested revisions by the Examining Committee, the candidate submits two copies (pdf format) of the approved M.D., one to the Library of the University of Thessaly and one to the Administrative Office of the J.M.D.

The dissertations must be posted on the website of the Institutional Repository of the University of Thessaly: <http://ir.lib.uth.gr>. The hard copies of the M.D. are not available for borrowing but for on site use inside the Library of the Departments. The reproduction of an M.D., in whole or in part, is permitted only with the written permission of the author.