

## School of Mathematics and Statistics

### 8719 Mathematics

### Master Project Guidelines

## 1 Introduction

The project is a compulsory part of any Master by coursework program and is worth 12 Units of Credit (UoC) over two consecutive terms. It involves writing a thesis, i.e., a coherent written exposition of a chosen topic. The project gives the student an opportunity to make practical use of the knowledge gained through their Master, and to learn to work independently. It prepares the student for the problem-solving and report-writing aspects of future employment, or for progression to a research degree. The thesis could include a literature survey and a critical analysis of the topic area or could be a small research project.

## 2 Admission

The project is normally taken over the last two consecutive terms of the program, and after completing at least 36 UoC (typically, 6 courses). For part-time students, the project terms - up to 4 - must be consecutive as well.

Progression to the project is subject to academic performance: students seeking to enrol in the project are required to have attained a current Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 70 \* or higher in their Master program. Students who do not attain a WAM of 70 or higher have two options. One, they may delay the start of their project for one term to attempt to improve their WAM. Two, they may transfer to the Graduate Certificate in Mathematics and Statistics (program 7659) or the Graduate Diploma in Mathematics and Statistics (program 5659), as appropriate, to complete the remaining courses and graduate with that degree.

In any case, enrolment in the project is conditional on the approval of the Director of Postgraduate Studies (Coursework) and is subject to appropriate supervision resources being available. See below advice on enrolment under "Timeline". Overloading in a term when enrolled in the project course is strictly not permitted; 18 UOC is the maximum allowed.

\*NB: The required WAM 70+ includes

Each student works under the supervision of one academic staff member, who is usually a member of the School of Mathematics and Statistics. Projects with a supervisor external to the School must have a co-supervisor within the School. For these cases, the potential supervisor or student should contact the Director of Postgraduate Studies (Coursework).

The supervisor is expected to help select the project topic, direct the student to useful



may approve an extension of time to submit the thesis (no greater than 4 weeks) on the grounds of illness, accident, disability, bereavement, or other compassionate circumstances that have affected a student's work in more than in a minor way. A request for an extension should be made before the thesis submission deadline. Note that extensions are only granted in specific and unusual circumstances. For instance, the University expects that employment related matters will not affect a student's study. Anything related to a student's social, or sporting life is also not included.

In granting the extension, the Director of Postgraduate Studies (Coursework) is to ensure the length of the extension is commensurate with the time the student was unable to work on their project. The extension time will also be chosen to ensure it does not unduly advantage the student over those who submitted in accordance with the initial deadline. Importantly, late thesis submission, even when approved by the Director of Postgraduate Studies (Coursework), is likely to delay the student's graduation. Due to sponsorships and visa e 0

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By Friday Week 1, T2	Complete Form 2 in Moodle and provide a draft of the thesis project to the Supervisor.
By the end of Week 3, T2	Supervisor to advise thesis submission is on target for week 10; by reply to School via email request.
Week 8, T2	School will again contact Supervisor for update on thesis submission confirming on target for week 10.
5.00PM, Friday, Week 10, T2	Submission of the thesis
Study period (Week 11), T2	Oral presentation of the thesis (see Section 6 below)

## 5 Thesis format

The thesis should be in 12pt font, singly spaced (or one and-a-half spaced). Typically, a thesis should be between 40

NB: All these files need to be saved in the same folder as `unswms-masters-thesis-template.tex` for correct compilation.

Students are required to submit two electronic (in pdf format) copies of their thesis through the Moodle course page, by the set deadline. A submission link (usually through Turnitin) will be provided.

## 6 Assessment

The thesis will be assessed for quality in four major areas, each of which is equally important:

- Exposition: structure and presentation of the thesis, including definition of the problem, organisation of the argument, clarity in terms of writing style, and illustrative materials.
- Literature coverage: sufficient introductory and summary material, position of the topic in a wider context, review, and critique of relevant literature in the field.
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assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original.
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole.
- presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor.

For the purposes of this policy, submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may be considered plagiarism. Knowingly permitting your work to be copied by another student may also be plagiarism. An assessment item produced in oral, not written, form, or involving live presentation, may similarly contain plagiarised material.

The University has policies on academic honesty and plagiarism which all students should familiarise themselves with, see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

The [Academic Skills](#) website is the main repository of resources for students regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. The Academic Skills Team also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in correct referencing practices; paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing, and time management; appropriate use of, and attribution for, a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts. Individual assistance is available on request from the Academic Skills Team.

Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting, and the proper referencing of sources in preparing their thesis.

## 9 Additional information

Please refer to the School of Mathematics and Statistics website for updated information: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/maths/student-life-resources/postgraduate-coursework/postgraduate-coursework-project>