

## Overview: Writing a Thesis for the Master of Arts Programme in the Anglophone Literature and Culture Division

*last updated Jan 2024*

registration deadlines:	There are no fixed registration deadlines.
prerequisites:	To register for their MA thesis, students must show at least 70 credits in their degree programme, of which at least 30 credits must be from the core curriculum.
module options:	<p>Students wishing to work in detail on their thesis project are encouraged to register for M.EP.09a (requirements: participation in colloquium; regular meetings with supervisor about thesis project; portfolio). This module is meant to allow students to collect material and test texts and theories in preparation for writing a thesis. Timewise, students should plan for around one semester.</p> <p>While writing the thesis students are expected to complete M.EP.06a (participation in colloquium; oral exam/defense of thesis). This module presupposes that students have a fully-formed project that they can present as writing-in-progress project. Note that they may not be accepted without such a project. For writing a MA thesis students have six months after registrations; they should plan accordingly.</p>
time for writing:	<p>From the registration date of the thesis topic, students have 6 months to complete their thesis (§ 10 paragraph 3 Rahmen-PO). Supervisors should complete their report within eight weeks (§ 10 par. 7 Rahmen-PO).</p> <p>Students can register an appeal within a month of having been informed of the overall grade of the thesis (§ 20 par. 1 APO).</p>
size/number of pages:	Around 80 pages are expected (excluding title page, table of contents, bibliography, appendix if applicable) [=36.000 words]. Diverging from this by +/-10% is acceptable. Please note the word count at the end of the paper.
scope of secondary literature:	<p>There is no fixed number of secondary sources.</p> <p>Although we do not expect a complete survey of the current research relating to your topic, we do expect a scholarly discussion of relevant secondary sources. Failure to include secondary literature also on the primary texts may result in a reduction of the final grade by up to one full point.</p>
style sheet:	As for every term paper handed in for a course in the Anglophone Literature and Culture division, students are expected to use the division style sheet.
language of thesis:	Students are expected to write their thesis in English.
assessment:	<p>The grading of the thesis takes these points under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- overall structure and line of argumentation;</li><li>- theoretical framework</li><li>- content</li><li>- relevance of arguments for thesis topic;</li><li>- scholarly use of secondary sources;</li><li>- adequacy of style and range of vocabulary;</li><li>- formal correctness.</li></ul> <p>No separate grade is awarded to grammatical correctness and style, but the grade will be lowered if style, grammar, formal aspects or other aspects are considered inadequate. (Inappropriate expressions distort</p>

the text's meaning.) For reference see the overview file on the use of appropriate language.

grading scheme:

The grading scheme is set by the study regulations. Exceptional theses are graded 1.0; a thesis which is just about adequate is graded 4.0. Any thesis deemed non-appropriate is considered as a fail (5.0). Each supervisor grades the thesis separately; the mean grade is entered as the final grade.

options for appeal:

Within a month of the publication of the grade, students can lodge an appeal against the grade if they consider the grade inadequate (§ 20 par. 1 Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung für Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge). The Faculty's Exams Committee will then request a clarification of the grade and, if necessary, submit the thesis to a third supervisor.