

Grading of master theses, LOG950, LOG953, LOG954

The evaluation committee consists of two members; one internal and one external grader. The internal grader should not be the supervisor. The grading guidelines with quality description of the different grades should be the basis for the evaluations. To get consistency, all graders should be allocated at least three theses for grading.

The time schedule for 2021 looks like this:

April 9: Supervisors inform the study coordinator about students who are likely to deliver at the end of the semester and who will be delayed. Delayed students will have to wait until the end of next semester before delivering. The supervisor suggests potential graders for the theses (up to three each for the internal and external grader).

The study coordinator assigns one internal and one external grader to each thesis and sends a request to those involved. A list of theses and all graders is sent to the study administration when finalized.

May 25: Due date for delivery of the written theses. The theses should be delivered in Inspira. The study administration distributes the delivered theses to the graders and the supervisor. A plagiarism check is performed before distributing the theses and eventual suspicious theses are withheld until they are approved.

Week 23 (June 7-10): Oral presentation of the theses. This will normally be in a Zoom-meeting, but if all involved are present in Molde, it can be held as a physical meeting. The internal grader organizes the presentation and finds a suitable time.

The supervisor and both graders should be present together with the students involved. The format of the oral presentation should be as follows:

1. The student(s) present their main findings for approximately 20 minutes. If two students have written a thesis together, both should contribute equally during the presentation.
2. After the presentation, the graders and the supervisor initiate a discussion around the thesis, points out weaknesses and strong points and ask the students to clarify any indistinctness. This session should last up to 30 minutes.
3. When the discussion is finished, the students log out and the supervisor stays in the meeting to answer questions regarding the students work and guidance through the process.
4. The supervisor leaves the meeting, and the two graders agree about a final grade.

LOG950, LOG953 and LOG954 Master's thesis in logistics

Grading guidelines

The thesis should be assessed according to the following elements:

1 Learning outcome

After completing the Master's thesis, the student should

- Have knowledge regarding planning and accomplishment of a scientific work.
- Understand the importance of formulating precise research questions.
- Understand the role of theory in research.
- Choose the appropriate method for collecting relevant information and data.
- Knowledge about key principles for analysis and discussion of an empirical material.
- Have updated theoretical knowledge within the topic of the master's thesis.
- Be able to use theory to analyze key issues within the topic of the master's thesis.

These outcomes will be measured by using the following main criteria:

- a) Independence
- b) Structure, "red thread"
- c) Case description
- d) Theory
- e) Research problem and research questions, proposals, hypotheses
- f) Methodology
- g) Analysis, presentation of findings
- h) Documentation, transparency
- i) Consistency
- j) Professional challenge
- k) Originality

2 Syllabus

Relevant literature to the thesis's theme. The thesis must meet the requirements for literature references. See the guidelines on writing the Master's thesis.

<https://www.himolde.no/english/studies/programmes/master-programmes-in-logistics/master-thesis.html/>

3 Assessments

An internal and external examiner assess the Master's thesis. The thesis is presented and discussed in an oral final exam. The grade scale used to assess the master's thesis is given below. The final grade results from an overall assessment of the written thesis and the oral examination.

4 General assessments

The grade the student receives should express to what degree the learning outcomes are met. The grading scale is from A - E for passing, while a grade F is failed.

The table below shows the quality description of the different grades.

Explanation of the grades

Grade	Level	Description
A	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An outstanding thesis which clearly demonstrates a talent for research and/or originality, in a national perspective.• The candidate has very good insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field and has demonstrated scientific knowledge at a very high level. The objectives of the thesis are well defined and easy to understand.• The candidate is able to select and apply relevant scientific methods convincingly, has all the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct very advanced experiments or computations without help, and works very independently.• The thesis is considered very extensive and/or innovative. The analysis and discussion have an extremely good scientific foundation and justification, and are clearly linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates extremely good critical reflection and distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others.• The form, structure and language in the thesis are at an extremely high level.
B	Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A very good thesis that is clearly and positively distinguishable.• The candidate has very good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are well defined and easy to understand.• The candidate is able to select and apply relevant scientific methods soundly, has almost all the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct advanced experiments or computations without help, and works very independently.• The thesis is considered extensive and/or innovative. The analysis and discussion have a very good scientific foundation and justification, and are clearly linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates very good critical reflection and distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others.• The form, structure and language in the thesis are at a very high level.

Grade	Level	Description
C	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good thesis. • The candidate has good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are generally well defined, but may contain some inexact formulations. • The candidate uses the relevant scientific methods satisfactorily, has most of the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct quite advanced experiments or computations without help, and works independently. • The thesis is considered good with elements that are creative. The analysis and discussion have a good scientific foundation and justification, and are linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates good critical reflection and usually distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The form, structure and language in the thesis are at a good level.
D	Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A satisfactory thesis. • The candidate has quite good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are defined, but may contain some inexact formulations. • The candidate is generally able to apply relevant scientific methods, has the main technical skills required for the work, and can plan and conduct experiments or computations without help. The candidate works independently to some extent, but needs quite close supervision to achieve satisfactory scientific progress. The candidate may have problems utilizing the research group's expertise in his/her own work. • The thesis is considered satisfactory. The analysis and discussion have a satisfactory scientific foundation and justification, and are linked to the topic that is addressed, but there is room for improvement. The candidate demonstrates his/her ability for critical reflection, but has problems distinguishing clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The form, structure and language in the thesis are at an acceptable level.

Grade	Level	Description
E	Sufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thesis that is acceptable and satisfies the minimum criteria. • The candidate has sufficient scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are described, but are vague and imprecise. • The candidate is able to apply some relevant scientific methods, has a minimum of technical skills required for the work, and can plan and conduct simple experiments or computations without help. The candidate achieves limited scientific progress without close supervision, and has problems utilizing the research group's expertise in his/her own work. • The thesis is considered limited and somewhat fragmented. The analysis and discussion have an adequate scientific foundation and justification, but ought to have had a better link to the topic that is discussed. The candidate demonstrates sufficient critical reflection, but may have problems distinguishing between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The thesis is mostly acceptable, but has definite shortcomings with respect to form, structure and language.
F	Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thesis that does not satisfy the minimum requirements. • The candidate does not have sufficient scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are not clearly defined or are lacking. • The candidate demonstrates a lack of competence in the use of scientific methods, does not have the required technical skills and independence for the work, and has scarcely utilized the research group's expertise in his/her own work. • The thesis is considered very limited and fragmented. The analysis and discussion do not have an adequate scientific foundation and justification, and are loosely linked to the topic that is discussed. The candidate does not demonstrate sufficient critical reflection, and does not clearly distinguish between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The thesis has major shortcomings with respect to form, structure, and language.