

Guidelines for the final thesis. LM-84 Global Cultures

Selection of supervisor and co-supervisor. The research and writing process of the thesis is carried out under the guidance of supervisor and a co-supervisor. The supervisor of the final examination is either the head of the teaching staff for the subject or the teacher with whom the exam in the subject was taken. However, the student may request the Degree Programme Board to take their final examination in a subject outside of their study plan, provided it is consistent with the qualifying and specific learning outcomes for the second-cycle degree programme. In this case, an assistant supervisor will be appointed by the Board from among the teachers of the degree programme.

Students are encouraged to contact a potential supervisor to propose a thesis' topic at least six months before the expected graduation date.

Co-supervisors may be selected from outside the University (they are not required to be university professors). However, we strongly recommend choosing a co-supervisor who also teaches in the Global Cultures program, except in cases where the research has been conducted within another institution (e.g. a museum, NGO, association), in which case a representative of that organization may serve as a suitable co-supervisor. In any case, the choice of the co-supervisor must be agreed upon with the supervisor.

The supervisor also determines all aspects not specified below (timeline, workflow, etc.).

Language. The thesis must be written in English.

Approximate length. Considering that the final thesis is worth 18 credits (rather than 24, as in most other Master's programs in our Department), the suggested minimum length is approximately 200,000 characters including spaces (roughly 40,000 words in English).

Reference system. The reference system is chosen by the supervisor. In the absence of specific instructions, we recommend using the *Chicago Manual of Style*, either the "author-date" or the "notes and bibliography" system. https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Images. Images may be included in the thesis, provided that their sources are always cited. It is important to note that if the thesis is made publicly accessible in any form after graduation, the author is responsible for obtaining copyright permissions for all images used.

Originality. The candidate is fully responsible for the originality of the thesis content. Supervisors may use anti-plagiarism software to verify the originality of the work. Please note that plagiarism is contrary to the University Ethical Code (art. 28; <https://normateneo.unibo.it/allegati/codice-etico-e-di-comportamento>) and may lead to legal repercussions.

Use of GenAI. The University of Bologna has issued guidelines on the use of Generative AI, encouraging responsible and conscious use. These guidelines emphasize that GenAI tools should enhance critical thinking and personal creativity, without replacing them.

<https://www.unibo.it/en/university/statute-standards-strategies-and-reports/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence>

The use of Generative AI tools to write the text of the thesis is prohibited, as the thesis must be an original work produced by the candidate. However, Generative AI may be used to develop a

preliminary structure or to assist with English language revision. Any use of Generative AI must be explicitly declared and properly acknowledged in the thesis.

Public discussion. Details regarding the modalities of the discussion before a committee of professors from the Master's Program (timing, use of PowerPoint, audiovisuals, etc.) must be agreed upon with the supervisor. The public discussion of the thesis will take place in English.

Points available for the degree mark and dissertation requirements. Points available for the degree mark, to be increased according to the following grade scale and accompanied by an indication of value:

- 4 (excellent)*
- 3 (very good)
- 2 (good)
- 1 (fair)
- 0 (average)

* which may be assigned to a highly original and brilliantly presented work (as briefly explained by the supervisor).

Students attending the double degree program with Bielefeld University should follow the above given indications except in the following points:

1. the thesis subject must be approved by both a professor teaching at Bologna University, who will serve as supervisor and a professor at Bielefeld University, who will serve as a co-supervisor.
2. The thesis will be submitted and discussed at University of Bologna following the regular graduation procedures of the home university. To obtain the double degree they must also submit the thesis at Bielefeld University according to the instructions given by the host university.