

Final Examinations Rules

International Master's Degree in Language, Society and Communication (LSC)

The following regulations apply starting from students enrolled in 2021/22 onwards (enrolled in the first year of the course of study in the 2021/22 academic year).

For students from other universities or who have had credits recognized from other courses they have attended previously, the rules of the year in which the transfer took place shall apply.

While the general rules laid down by the University Teaching Regulations (*Regolamento didattico d'Ateneo*) are maintained, the International Master's Degree in LSC hereby stipulates the following:

1. Students must agree upon a **topic** with their Supervisors: the graduation thesis must be related to a subject pertaining to a **Scientific-Disciplinary Sector** among those offered by the Degree Course Teaching Regulations (*Regolamento didattico del Corso di Studio*). The topic of the thesis must preferably be linked to one of the **teaching activities** in the study plan, for which graduating students have passed the exam with the Supervisor. However, it is enough for candidates to include in their study plan a teaching activity from the Scientific-Disciplinary Sector of their Supervisor. Candidates are required to agree on the topic with their Supervisor within a reasonable **time frame**, no later than six months before applying for graduation. Candidates must organize their research responsibly and must submit sections of their thesis on a regular basis. When they **apply for graduation**, they must ensure that their Supervisor already possesses all the necessary elements to assess their work on the basis of an almost completed version. In any case, candidates must deliver the **final version** of their thesis no later than **7 days** before the Admission Requirements Deadline.
2. **Supervisors**: these are lecturers in subjects belonging to a teaching activity within the Teaching Planning of the University of Bologna, and whose research activity is consistent with the Degree Course Objectives.

The Degree Programme Board is entitled to evaluate this consistency. **Co- Supervisors:** these may be experts in the subject (*Cultori della materia*) or professors/researchers from other Universities (including foreign Universities). All candidates must have both a Supervisor and a Co-Supervisor: at least one of these must belong to the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures and preferably to the Master's Degree in Language, Society and Communication (LSC).

The Degree Course Board may consider special cases, provided that they are adequately motivated. In these cases, as soon as the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor have been selected, a special request must be sent by e-mail to the Degree Course Director, both in hard copy and in electronic form (PDF or scanned signed document).

3. With reference to Art. 1, the final thesis must focus on a topic at least **partially related** to one of the two foreign languages and cultures that the student has studied. The topic must be investigated in a written paper of a minimum of 50 to a maximum of 60 pages (excluding appendices, text corpora, documentation material, etc.)
4. The **oral discussion** of the final thesis will be held:
 - in **one of the two languages** that the candidate has studied (if the topic she or he has chosen is related to one of the two languages): in this case, either the Supervisor or the Co-Supervisor must necessarily belong to a Scientific-Disciplinary Sector of "Language and Translation" or must be perfectly capable of carrying out this task.
 - In **English**, if the topic is related to a non-linguistic activity.

In both cases, the abstract must be written in **English**.

In special circumstances, the **Supervisor** may choose to have a **second Co-Supervisor** who is a language expert.

5. The thesis is assessed on the basis of a **set of criteria**: textual clarity, argumentative consistency, formal accuracy, originality of results, research autonomy (in compiling the bibliography, in structuring and developing the work, as well as in writing up the thesis). The candidate's performance in the discussion will also affect the overall assessment.

The **final mark** will be determined on the basis of these considerations. In accordance with the University Teaching Regulations, this is not strictly bound by the weighted average of marks gained in exams. Although this average is taken into account, the final examination mark will be based on the written dissertation and its oral discussion. Should the thesis commission agree that the work deserves a higher mark, the weighted average may be integrated up to a maximum of 7 points.

6. Any **honours** ('lodi') obtained in past examinations will not add to the final score: the 'Summa cum laude' merit awarded to the final grade of 110/110
– to be agreed between the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor – may only be granted at the request of one of the commissioners and must be unanimously approved by all members of the commission.

IMPORTANT NOTE

A lecturer away on leave may not be either Supervisor or Co-supervisor. An untenured lecturer can be either Supervisor or Co-supervisor.

A retired lecturer cannot be a Supervisor. S/he may be a Co-supervisor only if declared "Cultore della materia".

Approved by decree of the Coordinator of the Course of Study on 25.06.2021, it modifies, cancels and replaces the previous versions.