

## General Information for supervisors of Master's theses in Drug Sciences

The Master's thesis is part of the Master's studies in Drug Sciences. Candidates may start the work for their thesis regardless of the results achieved in other elements of the Master's course. However, the first and second semester of MSc Drug Sciences shall be successfully completed. Before starting the thesis, a learning contract ("Studienvertrag für Masterarbeit") must be filled in (comprising 10 months between start and termination date) and signed by the student, the responsible lecturer ("Beurteiler") and the Dean of the Teaching committee ("Vorsteher Unterrichtskommission"). Responsibility may be transferred to an external Professor with the approval of the Teaching Committee ("Unterrichtskommission").

At the end of the Master's thesis, the responsible lecturer sets the score (usually in consultation with the supervisor), writes the candidate's grade on the contract, signs it and will send it to the departmental study coordination office (together with a copy of cover sheet and grade calculation). Students will get a total of 50 ECTS credit points for successfully completed Master's thesis.

The student remains matriculated at the University of Basel for the time of the Master's thesis.

### **Topics and Grading**

Each student is responsible himself to find a suitable Master's thesis topic and coordinates the allocation of the thesis. Holders of professorships or assistant-professorships and lecturers in the MSc Drug Sciences are responsible for the topics ("Beurteiler"). A possible second assessor ("Zweitbeurteiler") may, but does not necessarily have to sign the contract.

The responsible lecturer ("Beurteiler") and the supervising person ("Betreuer") will grade the thesis in steps of half marks. If the grading is sufficient (mark 4 or higher) the student gets 50 credit points. The thesis can be repeated once if the mark is not sufficient (under mark 4). The marks will be written into the learning contract and sent to the examination office of the Faculty of Science.

### **Aim of the Master's thesis**

The students are supposed to use their abilities – gained during their studies – to work on a defined project for a longer period of time, determined in advance within the topics of pharmaceutical research. Main focus should be set on independent research and students should be given an insight into a research group.

### **Course of the thesis**

The thesis must be written within 10 months. It has to be finished with a written report. The exact starting and ending dates are set by the student and the supervisors.

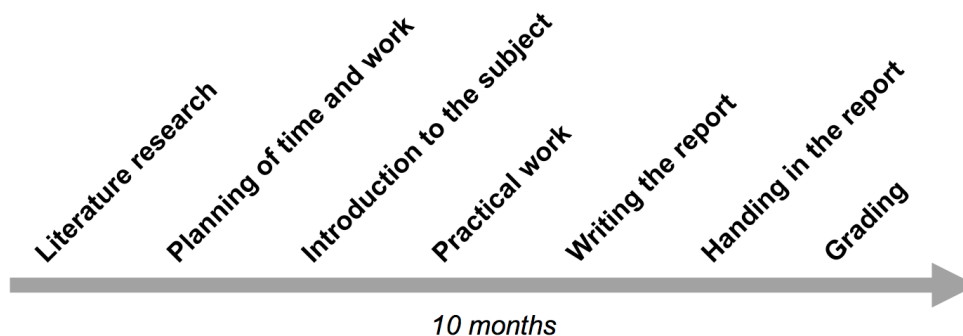


Fig. Basic plan for the course of a Master's thesis at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Basel.

Among others, the thesis must include the following tasks: Time and working plan, literature research, self-introduction in the topic, and practical research working. Students are given an introduction in the necessary working methods and extra time for writing their reports. Copies of the thesis should be given to the professor in charge and the supervisor who set the marks.

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### ***Master Examination***

Within 4 weeks after completing the Master's thesis, there will be an oral exam of 45 minutes (thereof 15 minutes presentation and 30 minutes questions and answers) in which the students discuss their thesis. They will be examined in their own and related topics. Examiners are the responsible lecturer and the supervising person or a committee member. The marks are graded in half steps. Students who pass the exam gain 4 credit points, students who fail may repeat this exam once. For this purpose, a learning contract ("Bewertung Masterprüfung") must be set up before Master Examination, graded and signed by the the responsible lecturer ("Beurteiler") and second assessor ("Zweitprüfer"/"Beisitzer") and sent to the examination office of the Faculty of Science.

### ***Publications***

The Master's thesis is an internal examination paper which cannot be cited. Publication resulting from a thesis must be agreed with the professor in charge and the supervisor.

### ***Supervisor's duties***

Supervisors are supposed to provide a working place, facilities and the materials needed to perform the project. For a good start, a careful introduction is essential.

The main task is to support the student in his or her work and to facilitate the integration into the team.

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If you need further information do not hesitate to contact the Study Coordination of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacenter, Klingelbergstrasse 50, 4056 Basel, Phone: +41 (0)61 207 15 53, e-Mail: [studienkoordination-pharma@unibas.ch](mailto:studienkoordination-pharma@unibas.ch)