

## General information for supervisors of Master's theses in Pharmacy contacted directly by one of our students

### General information

The Master's thesis is mandatory part of the Master's studies in pharmacy. Candidates may start the work for their thesis regardless of the results achieved in other elements of the Master's course. However, the Bachelor studies have to be completed. Before starting the thesis, a learning contract - "Studienvertrag" - must be filled in and signed by the student and the persons in charge. At the end of the thesis, the responsible lecturer ("Beurteiler") must write the candidate's grade on the contract, sign it and send it to the examination office of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Basel.

### 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.

### Management and supervision of the Master's thesis

The Master's thesis can be completed at the University of Basel or externally. In any case, the work is conducted by a responsible lecturer. This is the holder of a professorship or lecturer with a habilitation or equivalent qualification from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The management may be delegated to external professors with the approval of the teaching commission.

The supervision of the Master's thesis can be delegated to other researchers, holding at least a Master's degree, with the approval of the teaching commission. In these cases, responsibility remains with the responsible lecturer.

### Grading

The responsible lecturer and the supervising person grade the thesis in steps of half marks. If the grading is sufficient (mark 4 or higher, Swiss grade system) the student gets 30 credit points. The thesis can be repeated once again if the mark is not sufficient (below 4). The marks will be written into the learning contract and sent to the examination office of the Faculty of Science.

### Course of the Thesis

The thesis must be written within 21 weeks. It is to be finished with a written report. The exact starting and ending dates are set every year (cp. following Fig.).

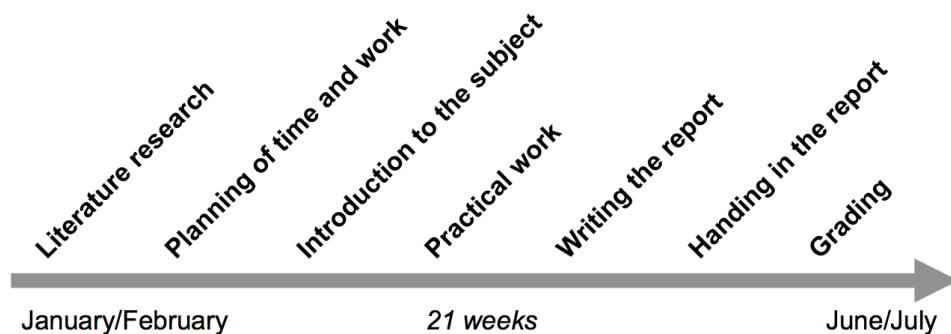


Fig.: Basic plan for the course of a Master's thesis at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Basel.

Among others, the thesis must include the following tasks (cp. previous fig.): 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 lecturer in charge and the supervisors who set the marks.

### **Master Examination**

Within 4 weeks after completing the master thesis, there will be an oral exam of 30 minutes in which the students discuss their thesis. They will be examined in their own and related topics. Examiners are the lecturer in charge and the supervisor. In exceptional cases and at the request of the responsible lecturer, the teaching commission may authorize another suitably qualified person. The marks are graded in half steps. Students who pass the exam gain 4 credit points, students who fail may repeat this exam once.

### **Publications**

The Master's thesis is an internal examination paper which cannot be cited. Publication resulting from a thesis must be agreed with the lecturer 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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Visit also our website:

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