

## Thesis and Examination in the PELP Master Programme

Concerns the [curriculum](#) for the master studies Political, Economic and Legal Philosophy / Philosophie der Politik, Ökonomie und des Rechts at Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz in the version of 2019.

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### General information about the master thesis

The master thesis and the following master examination are the final part of the PELP master. The master thesis comprises 30 ECTS credits and the master examination comprises 6 ECTS credits. With a total of 36 ECTS credits, the master thesis and master examination thus exceed the benchmark of 30 ECTS credits that are recommended to be completed within one semester as part of full-time studies. This results in the recommendation to start planning and preparing the master thesis already in the third semester of a regular study program. By the way, it can be very helpful to familiarize oneself with the topic of the master thesis by writing a term paper in the same field beforehand.

### Supervisor of the master thesis

The supervisor of the master thesis is the prime contact person for questions and problems concerning the writing process of the master thesis. To find a supervisor, you can simply contact the person of your choice. It is advisable to agree with the supervisor on how your cooperation should be structured. For this purpose, it is advisable to prepare a supervision agreement similar to the [supervision agreement for dissertations](#). At a minimum, the following questions should be clarified:

- How often and at what intervals does the student want to consult the supervisor?
- Does the student want the supervisor to read and comment on drafted chapters of the master thesis?
- Within what time frame does the student want the supervisor's feedback on the chapters?
- Both sides should commit themselves to communicate early and openly if agreed deadlines cannot be met.

As a rule, the supervisor of the master thesis must be habilitated and be a member of the Institute of Philosophy. In exceptional cases, the supervisor may also be a person from another institute who does not hold a habilitation treatise. The final decision on this is made by

the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Humanities. A form for the corresponding application can be found [here](#) on the second page.

Regular supervisors of master theses are the following professors:

- Ao.Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr.iur. Christian Hiebaum (Institute for Legal Basics, Department of Philosophy of Law)
- Univ. Prof. Dr. Matthias Klatt (Institute for Legal Basics, Department of Philosophy of Law)
- Prof. Dr. Lukas Meyer (Institute for Philosophy, Department of Practical Philosophy)
- Prof. Dr. Ursula Renz (Institute for Philosophy, Department of the History of Philosophy)
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr.phil. Sonja Rinofner (Institute for Philosophy, Department of Classical Phenomenology)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Julian Müller (Institute for Philosophy, Department of Political Philosophy)

In exceptional cases, the following persons may be considered as supervisors for the master thesis:

- Dr.phil BA MA Elias Moser (Institute of Philosophy, Department of Practical Philosophy)
- Mag.phil. Dr.phil MA Thomas Pözlner (Institute for Philosophy, Department of Practical Philosophy)
- Dr. phil Barbara Reiter (Institute for Philosophy)
- PD MMag. Dr.phil. habil. Harald Stelzer (Research Manager of the profile area Climate Change Graz)
- Dr.phil BA MA Santiago Truccone-Borgogno (Institute for Philosophy, Department of Practical Philosophy)

## Administrative process of registration and submission of the master thesis

Before you start working on your master thesis you have to announce your topic to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities by e-mail to [gewi.erkennung@uni-graz.at](mailto:gewi.erkennung@uni-graz.at) using this [form](#). The topic can be changed with the consent of the supervisor, but must then be announced again with a new application. A change of supervisor is permitted until the master thesis is submitted, but must also be announced in a new application. In this case, a confirmation of the notification of the previous supervisor must also be enclosed.

Every student is obliged to prepare an abstract in German and English before submitting the master thesis. This abstract must not exceed 2000 characters including spaces and is to be entered in UNIGRAZonline via the business card under "theses". It is also mandatory to upload the final full text of the master thesis. These [instructions will](#) help you with the input.

The completed master thesis must be submitted to the dean's office. Please note the current [opening hours](#). You must bring the following documents with you:

- 2 copies of the master thesis

- The title page must look like the [template](#)
- The master thesis must be hardcover
- All editions must have the same cover color.
- The printed and electronic version must be identical
- For reasons of data protection, no honorary declaration may be included
- 2 abstracts in German language (max. 2000 characters including spaces, not embedded, author name and title given)
- 2 abstracts in English language (max. 2000 characters incl. spaces, not embedded, author name and title given)
- The [submission form](#)

After you have uploaded the master thesis to UNIGRAZonline and submitted the hardback version, the thesis will be subject to plagiarism checks. The evaluation of the master thesis may take up to two months.

For further information, please consult the [website of the Faculty of Humanities](#) on the topic as well as the [page Forms A-Z](#).

## Notes on the form of the master thesis

- The form of the master thesis can be based on the [ÖNORM](#)
- The master thesis should cover about 80 text pages
- The method of citation should be discussed with the main supervisor

## Tips for the writing process

- For literature management the literature management system Citavi is recommended. A free version can be requested [here](#). Depending on your preference, you can of course use other comparable programs, or even none at all.
- Limit the scope of your topic as much as possible. You are writing a master thesis and not a doctoral thesis. A clear demarcation helps you not to 'get lost'.
- In order to get an overview of your own topic, it is a good idea to write an exposé. This can be between 2-4 pages long and can serve as a guide during the writing process.
- Don't wait too long before you start with the actual writing process. Literature research can sometimes seem endless. It is important that you find your way into writing as early as possible.
- Write down your last thoughts at the end of each working day. This way you can pick up where you left off the next day. Such reminders can also be helpful during phases in which you are not working on your master thesis for a longer period of time.
- If you are unmotivated, it can help to find a writing buddy with whom you can meet up in the library.
- If possible, have individual sections or entire chapters proofread and ask for feedback.
- Our database [RefWorks](#) can be helpful for literature research. If you are struggling with literature research, you can take a [course at the university library](#).
- The [Writing Center](#) offers competent assistance in writing scientific papers.

## General information on the master examination

The master examination is an oral, commission-based subject examination comprising 6 ECTS credits. It can only be taken after all other courses of study (including the master thesis) have been successfully completed. The period between the submission of the master thesis and the master examination may not be less than four weeks. There must also be at least two weeks between the submission of the supervisor's report on the master thesis to the Examinations Office and the master examination.

## Administrative process of registration for the master examination

Registration for the master examination is done by e-mail to [gewi.erkennung@uni-graz.at](mailto:gewi.erkennung@uni-graz.at) at the Faculty of Humanities using this [form](#). The application for the board examination must be signed by the first and second examiner and the chair of the examination before it can be submitted to the Dean's Office. The registration for the examination must be received by the Dean's Office at least 14 days before the scheduled date.

## Subject of the master examination

The subject of the master examination is:

1. The public defense/presentation of the master thesis (20 min.)
2. The subject to which the master thesis is assigned (30 min.)
3. Another of the following subjects, which is different from the subject of the master thesis:
  - Political Philosophy
  - Philosophy of Law
  - Ethics and Moral Philosophy
  - Social Philosophy
  - Theory of Knowledge of Law and the Social Sciences

## Examination board of the master examination

All members of the examination board must have habilitated in relevant subjects, unless you have made an above-mentioned exception with the vice dean. The commission usually consists of three members:

1. The supervisor of the master thesis as the first examiner
2. A second examiner (in case of a double degree, this *can* be the second supervisor of the master thesis from the University of Bochum). The second examiner must be habilitated.
3. A chairperson of the examination, who acts as a keeper of the minutes. In exceptional cases, the chairperson may be a person who has not completed his or her doctorate, but only if the other two members of the examination board are habilitated. The Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Humanities decides on this as well.

## TIP

You must remain enrolled at the university until you have successfully completed your master thesis and master examination. However, if you finish everything before the end of the grace period, you can ask for a refund of your tuition fees.