



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO

CENTER FOR MIND/BRAIN SCIENCES REGULATION FOR THE AWARD
OF A Master's Degree in COGNITIVE SCIENCE



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Art. 1 – Definitions

1. For the purposes of this regulation, the following definitions apply:
 - a. Final Examination: the final activity in the program of study. A number of ECTS credits is assigned to the final examination and is defined in the Degree's Program.
 - b. Degree Examination: a public presentation of the master's degree thesis and coincides with the Final Examination.
 - c. Graduand: a student who has earned all of the ECTS credits required by the Regulations governing the master's degree (excluding ECTS credits pertaining to the Final Examination) and who has applied for the award of the degree.
 - d. Examining Committee: the committee in charge of assessing the graduand's thesis.
 - e. Thesis: a long essay written by the masters' degree candidate under the supervision of a Thesis Supervisor.
 - f. Thesis Supervisor: a faculty member who supervises the student's thesis activities.
 - g. Thesis Examiner: a faculty member, indicated by the thesis supervisor, whose role is that of evaluating the student's thesis.
 - h. Program Coordinator: a faculty member who has been assigned responsibility by the Center for monitoring the proper performance not only of the program's educational activities but also, and more generally, of any other learning activity required by the education paths offered to students enrolled in the program. The name of the Coordinator is published every year in the portal of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) www.university.it.

Art. 2 – Objectives of the Final Examination

1. The final examination is an important moment in the pathway of study for two primary reasons. First, it allows for verification of the student's capacity to integrate content from the program and apply this knowledge to his/her own empirical/theoretical/bibliographical research. Second, it allows for assessment of the student's skills in formulating, writing and discussing a scientific argument.

Art. 3 – Prerequisites for the Degree Examination

1. A student may be admitted to the Degree Examination only after successfully passing all other educational activities required under the program for the award of the master's degree.
2. A student who intends to take the Degree Examination must complete the thesis title declaration procedure and apply within the deadlines and according to the instructions issued by the Student Office and published in the degree program's portal.
3. Applications to the Degree Examination may be submitted only by students who have taken and successfully passed every other educational activity required under the program. This does not include the internship. However, the internship must be registered by the student with program administration before the Degree Examination.

Art. 4 – Degree Examination

1. The Degree Examination consists of a presentation and defense of an original thesis under the guidance of a Thesis Supervisor. The thesis always includes a written paper in English.
2. The student can choose from one of the following two thesis options:
 - a. Theoretical and experimental thesis
 - b. Bibliographic thesis

Students that choose the theoretical and experimental thesis will investigate the chosen topic by performing experimental research. Those choosing the bibliographic thesis will analyze and integrate scientific literature on a specific subject.



3. The thesis must be submitted directly to the Thesis Examiner as well as to the Examining Committee before the date of the defense in accordance with the instructions issued by the Academic Policy and Student Management Office.
4. The role of Thesis Supervisor and of the Examiner is assigned to a faculty member of the University or to any teacher formally in charge of a course at the University, whose topics are coherent with the overall program, thought within the University of Trento. The final examination for the award of the master's degree is a public exam requiring the student to present and defend his or her thesis before an Examining Committee.

Art. 5 – Examining Committee

1. The Examining Committee is made up of at least 5 members, all of whom are either University faculty members or affiliated teaching staff working in the area of the student's field of study, one of whom is the Thesis Examiner. The Examining Committee must include at least three faculty members – *professori* or *ricercatori* – one of whom is nominated President of the Committee.
2. Members are appointed to the Examining Committee by the Director and are preferentially selected from among the Thesis Supervisors and Examiner of the cohort of Graduands who have applied for graduation.
3. The Thesis Supervisor as well as the Examiner are responsible for writing their judgments about the Graduand's activity and thesis following the model defined in Annex 2 and submitting them to the President of the Examining Committee.

Art. 6 – Definition of the final graduation mark

1. The final graduation mark is given on the basis of a 110-point scale and is determined by the Examining Committee according to the criteria defined in Annex 1.

Art. 7 – Final and Transitory Provisions

1. This regulation comes into effect with the autumn term of academic year 2020/21, beginning with the October 2021 thesis defence session.



Annex 1 – Calculation of the Final Master's Degree Grade

The final master's degree grade is calculated in 4 different steps:

- 1. Calculation of the average**
- 2. Conversion into 110-point scale**
- 3. Additional marks**
- 4. Final Grade and award of honors**

1. Calculation of the average

The final master's degree grade is obtained from the weighted average of all exam marks, taking into account that:

- a "30 with distinction" mark corresponds to 31;
- recognitions are not considered (besides exams with marks and extra exams);
- the average is expressed with two decimal places.

2. Conversion into 110-point scale

The average resulting from the computation is converted into a 110-point scale by multiplying it by a factor of 3.67 and keeping the two decimal places.

3. Additional marks

The Examining Committee must award additional points - up to 10 points for a Theoretical and experimental thesis and up to 4 points for a bibliographic thesis - taking into account:

- thesis activities
- presentation
- Thesis Supervisors and Examiner judgments

4. Final Grade and award of honors

The final master's degree grade is obtained by rounding the value obtained using the procedure described above to the nearest whole number. If this value is greater than or equal to 110, and if all Examining Committee members agree, the degree may be awarded with cum laude distinction.



Annex 2 – Evaluation form

Master’s Thesis Evaluation Form

Candidate: _____ Thesis Supervisor / Examiner
(tick as appropriate) _____

Thesis' title: _____

Graduation date: _____

<i>Evaluation criteria</i>		<i>parameters</i>						
<i>Corresponding scores</i>		10	8-9	6-7	4-5	2-3	0-1	
C O N T E N T	C1	knowledge of the topic and of the relevant literature	excellent	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	insufficient
	C2	soundness of the scientific methods and ability to apply and report them correctly	fully convincing	convincing	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	flawed
	C3	level of autonomy in working and writing (only for Supervisor)	excellent	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	insufficient
	C4	clarity and logical coherence of the written text	excellent	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	insufficient
	C5	value and interest of the obtained results	excellent	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	insufficient
F O R M	F1	linguistic and stylistic correctness	impeccable	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	flawed
	F2	adherence to academic / editorial conventions	impeccable	good	fairly good	satisfactory	sufficient	flawed

Final grade proposed: _____

This form must be completed and signed by the Supervisor/Examiner and delivered or sent via e-mail (in pdf format) to the Didactic Support Office at least three working days before the discussion of the degree thesis. The proposal of honors (possible only with at least 4 parameters in the first level and in any case with all 7 parameters between the first and second level) must be proposed to the Commission by the Advisor/Examiner and argued for in the space below.

Signature of the Supervisor / Examiner
