



Guidelines on dissertation writing

Master's degree in Quantitative and Computational Biology

Final exam

Students are required to accomplish an experimental project at one of the Departments or Centres of the University of Trento, at other universities, or at other private or public organizations, in Italy or in another country. As part of the project, graduating students will also write a dissertation, and present and discuss in public the results obtained.

The dissertation should include the following parts:

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Objectives
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions and future perspectives
- References

The **Abstract** is a short summary, usually about 1 page in length, that provides the context and the objectives of the project, and summarizes the scientific problem, the techniques used and the results obtained. In case of collaborative work, here is where the graduating student gives details on his or her contribution to the study.

The **Introduction** provides the background to the research work (at least 5 pages, not more than 10).

The **Objectives** section summarizes the project rationale, the scientific hypothesis and the key experiments that have been planned to test the hypothesis (at least 1 page, not more than 2 pages).

The **Materials and Methods** section provides a detailed description of the protocols, software and algorithms used for the project (at least 3 pages, maximum 10 pages; if you need more pages, include an Appendix).

The **Results** part describes all the experiments performed and their statistical analysis (at least 10, maximum 40 pages). If you want to provide replication data, include them in another appendix (Appendix II).



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The **Discussion** section contains a critical analysis of the results obtained and frames them in the context of the international literature (at least 5, maximum 10 pages).

The **Conclusions and future perspectives** section briefly summarizes the key outcome of the project and outlines any future directions (at least 1 page, not more than 2 pages).

The reference list contains all the works cited in the dissertation.

Dissertation layout:

Page format: A4

Page margins: top and bottom 2 cm, left 1.5 cm, right 2.5 cm

Main font: Times New Roman, 11pt

Line spacing: 1

Maximum 85 pages, excluding reference list and any appendices.