

MASTER 'S DEGREE COURSE IN QUANTITATIVE AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY FINAL EXAMINATION REGULATION

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MASTER'S DEGREE IN QUANTITATIVE AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

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Art. 1 – General rules

1. These guidelines define the rules to be applied for the final exam of the interdepartmental Master's Degree Course in Quantitative and Computational Biology, part of the class "LM-8 – Industrial Biotechnologies".
2. These guidelines are approved by the Board of the Department of Cellular, Computational, and Integrated Biology - CIBIO, the educational structure responsible for the course of study, and by the Board of the Department of Engineering and Information Science, the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Physics, as associated teaching facilities, at which research activities are also carried out to support the educational activities of the course of study.
3. The final exam consists of writing a thesis based on a research project and discussing it in a public discussion. The objectives of the thesis work are: to bring the student into direct contact with at least one of the frontier topics of research in Cellular and Molecular Biotechnology, to provide the student with the opportunity to contribute personally to the advancement of research, and to verify the scientific maturity reached by the student at the end of the course.

Art. 2 - Course contents and objectives

1. After earning at least 60 CFUs, the student may apply for the assignment of an experiment-type project under the supervision of a thesis coordinator who is required to follow the candidate through all stages of the preparation for the final examination.
2. The experimental activity is conducted within one of the Departments or Centers of the University of Trento, in other Italian universities or abroad, or in public or private institutions, in Italy or abroad. The activity is always carried out under the guidance of a University thesis coordinator and possibly a thesis advisor. The activity also includes the preparation of a written paper and a discussion.

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Art. 3 – Thesis coordinator and outside examiner

1. An outside examiner is also appointed for each assigned project, helping the committee evaluate the scope of work. The outside examiner cannot belong to the same research group as the thesis coordinator belongs.
2. Thesis coordinator and outside examiners for the final examination may be:
 - a) full professors and researchers of the University;
 - b) fixed-term researchers;
 - c) a professor of a teaching course of the degree programme in Quantitative and Computational Biology.
3. If the activity is carried out at facilities outside the University, the figure of an outside examiner working at the same is required. The figure of the outside examiner is optional for the activities carried out at the University. The function of outside examiner may be performed in this case by contract staff involved in research and teaching activities of the University. The outside examiner may be invited to the presentation of the paper of the student he/she supervises. He/she may express his/her judgment on the work done without participating in formulating the grade.

Art. 4 - Thesis presentation

1. The presentation takes place on the day determined by the teaching structure responsible for the course of study.
2. The outside examiner must receive the paper from the candidate at least one week before the graduation session. The board of examiners consists of 5 full members, one of whom serves as President for the entire graduation session. The President may also be the thesis coordinator or the outside examiner. The other members are: the thesis coordinator, the outside examiner and three members appointed by the Director of the CIBIO Department.

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3. The thesis coordinator and the outside examiner must be present during the graduation session. In case of justified absence, they must submit a written report, also via e-mail, to the president of the examiners board by the day before the graduation session. In the event that the thesis coordinator or outside examiner cannot participate in the work of the board of examiners they will be replaced by other members appointed by the Director of the CIBIO Department.
4. The duration of the presentation is 20 minutes plus another 10 minutes devoted to discussion. The board evaluates the quality of the paper, presentation, and fluency in the topics covered. The Board then expresses a judgment with a grade in 30s.

Art. 5 - Final grade calculation

1. The graduation mark, expressed in 110s, with possible honours, evaluates the student's curriculum, his/her preparation, and the scientific competence he/she has achieved by the end of the master's degree program. The starting score of each candidate is given by the average of the marks obtained in the didactic activities in 30s, using the appropriate credits as weights. A mark of 30 with honors will be counted as 32. This average will be converted to 110s and, if the necessary rounding is less than or equal to 0.5, it will be rounded to the nearest higher integer. The board of examiners has the power to grant rounding greater than 0.50.
2. The board decides the final grade as an increment on the starting score, considering the educational background and thesis and voting by the majority if unanimity is not achieved.
3. The following points can be added:
 - a) 1 point if the student has an excellent study record, i.e., with a weighted grade point average of 28.5/30 or higher, and has completed current studies.

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- b) 1 point: in case the candidate has participated in a dual degree or joint degree program with other universities, participated in an Erasmus+ project with the achievement of at least 18 credits per semester (including any internship or thesis activities), in the judgment of the Internship Delegate, undergone a challenging internship activity outside the university or in a Department/Center other than the one at which he/she conducted the research project for the final examination.
- 4. Finally, the board evaluates, awarding a score between 0 and 5 points, the project activity based on the originality of the thesis, the scientific significance of the contribution, the completeness of the setting in state of the art, and the quality of the presentation and exposition.
- 5. The grade with honors may be proposed by the thesis supervisor if the final vote is 110, or it is automatically proposed if the final vote is at least 112, assigning it with the unanimity of the board.

Art. 6 - Graduation announcement

- 1. The graduation announcement of the candidate is made at the end of the Board of examiners meeting by the President or his/her delegate.