

## **Guidelines for oral discussion of the master's thesis**

Adopted by the Faculty's Education Committee 30.05.2017, revised by the Education Committee  
08.12.2021

(Cf. NMBU's Study Regulations, Chapter 44)

### **Master's thesis**

1. The master's thesis ends with an oral degree exam by the end of the normal grading deadline (6 weeks). The main supervisor sets a time and place of the discussion, and informs the student(s) and examiner well in advance. If attendance at NMBU causes significant disadvantages for the student or the faculty, the discussion can be conducted as a video conference. It is the director of the dept. of NMBU's Academic Affairs who can make exceptions to the place requirement.
2. The discussion of the master's thesis is public, with the exception of confidential theses. The main supervisor is responsible for publishing the time, place and topic.
3. The procedure for discussing the master's thesis is as follows:
  - a. The oral degree exam starts with a presentation of the thesis of approx. 20 to 30 minutes duration, where the student(s) give an overview of the thesis.
  - b. After the presentation, the external examiner gives feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the master's thesis.
  - c. External examiner asks the student(s) in-depth questions about the thesis.
  - d. Internal examiner (main supervisor) can participate in the oral discussion of the thesis.
  - e. Any additional supervisors have the opportunity to make supplementary comments.
4. The time spent discussing the master's thesis (beyond the presentation) varies with the size of the thesis. For assignments of 30 credits, the discussion should last for 30 - 60 minutes. For assignments of 60 credits, the discussion should last for 45 - 75 minutes.
5. If two students have written the master's thesis together, they will as a general rule also discuss the thesis together. Then the time spent on the discussion will increase somewhat.
6. The examiner and supervisor(s) should have made up their minds about the grade prior to the discussion. The student(s) will not be informed of this grade. When final determination of the grade, emphasis is placed on the written work of the student(s). If the grade on the thesis is between two grades, the quality of the oral discussion can be decisive for the final grade. The final grade for collaborative students can be set equally or individually, depending on the students' performance. The supervisor and external examiner register the grade in Wiseflow after the oral defense.

### **Special syllabus**

1. When examining the special syllabus, the supervisor will examine, and this oral test will be held on the same day as the discussion of the master's thesis. External examiners can come up with supplementary questions. Special syllabi linked to a master's thesis are evaluated with a letter grade.
2. The time spent depends on the size of the special syllabus, but should be between 30 and 60 minutes.