

# Advanced Master Thesis & Seminar LSMD 3001

Topic and thesis content requirements

The advanced Master thesis must be distinguished by:

A focus on European affairs that will necessitate a thorough understanding of the workings of EU institutions, EU economic policies and firms or NGOs operating in the EU.

The scientific quality and relevance of the literature consulted and the research methodology

A sufficiently sophisticated application of specific theoretical teachings and methods

The thesis will be written in English and its length shall be between 10000 and 15000 words, not including annexes and references.

## **I. Organization and practical aspects related to the writing of the thesis**

1. The candidate will have to attend and participate to the Advanced Master Thesis seminar LSMD3001 to be able to submit his thesis. Attendance to the seminar is an integral part of the Advanced Master Thesis.
2. Regarding the research related to the thesis, the candidate can either ask any professor teaching in the programme of the Advanced Master to act as his supervisor for guidance OR decide to process autonomously (without any specific supervisor) but under the supervision of the professor in charge of the Seminar LSMD 3001 of the Advanced Master programme.
3. The candidate will have to determine a research topic with the supervisor and send it to the evaluation panel members (see below) before the 1st of March. The candidate will have to present her/his research topic at the first lecture of March of the seminar (LSMD3001).
4. The supervisor (or the academic responsible for the Advanced Master programme) assesses the value of the work provided by the student(s). On this basis, he/she shall determine, within the time limits prescribed by the faculty, whether the thesis can be defended orally at the next examination session. If the answer is yes, the supervisor will send an email to the student to notify the authorisation to print. The authorisation to print cannot be considered in any way as an acknowledgement of the success of the thesis. Indeed, the written work and the oral defence must still be assessed by the jury, as described below.
5. In the event that the supervisor considers that the work done so far is not sufficient enough to organise an oral defence, he/she invites the student(s) to continue the work and defend at the next examination session, always subject to his/her prior agreement.
6. The student submits his paper for the June session or the August-September session. Each student must submit an electronic version of their thesis to the DIAL library platform of the UCLouvain **AND** to the members of their jury. Their email addresses will be communicated in the Seminar. Deadlines for submitting thesis (paper and electronic versions) are the end of May for the June session and mid-August for the September session. The precise dates for submission of the thesis may be found in the LSM academic calendar (<https://intranet.uclouvain.be/fr/myucl/facultes/lsm/calendrier-aca-admin.html>)

## **II. The evaluation process of the thesis**

1. The thesis will be marked by an evaluation panel.
2. The evaluation panel shall be composed of at least two academics including the supervisor (if the student has a specific supervisor) designated by the Chair of the Juries.
3. The jury of the thesis evaluates the work produced on the basis of:
  - the handwritten document submitted by the student(s);
  - an oral presentation and defence of the work (each lasting about fifteen minutes) in the presence of this jury.
4. The objective of the public defence is to evaluate:
  - the student's understanding and mastery of her/his topic
  - Their capacity to have an objective, critical and original analysis of the topic
  - Their ability to synthesize and their mastery of oral presentation skills
  - Their ability to manage/overcome any obstacles and difficulties throughout their work.

## **III. Other informations**

1. Students who submit their thesis in September should be aware that during the July and August periods, professors are much less available. It is therefore imperative that each student ask his/her supervisor for their availability as early as May and agree upon a schedule for the final reading of the thesis.
2. No additional time will be allowed for the submission of the thesis, but students will be given the opportunity to send additions or corrections to the members of the jury by whatever means he or she deems appropriate before or during the defence.