

Writing the Master's Thesis as a Scientific Article

Instead of a traditional thesis in the form of a monograph, a Master's thesis can also have the form of a scientific article accepted for refereeing or publication in a scientific journal, providing the student is the first author of the article. In the Faculty of Education, it is sufficient that the supervisor approves 1) the introduction and 2) verifies that the article is ready to be submitted for publication.

An article accepted as a Master's thesis shall be written in one of the Faculty's research groups under the supervision of the leader of a research group or the supervisor of a Master's thesis group. In addition to the student and the supervisors, other persons taking part in the project can also be co-authors of the article as agreed. A research plan shall be composed for a thesis based on an article, to be approved by the leader of the research group/thesis group supervisor.

The format of the article shall follow the instructions given by the chosen refereed journal. The article can be published in either a Finnish or a foreign journal with a refereeing process.

When an article is proposed for submission as a thesis, a separate introductory part to be agreed on with the supervisor is included in the work, in which the student describes the research approach, process and methodology and discusses the significance of the research results from a broader viewpoint than would be possible in the article. The student shall agree with the supervisor on the relative weight given to and the contents of this part of the study. The length of the text shall be around 20 pages and it shall also include the references to literature. The thesis supervisor and examiners assess whether the article manuscript corresponds to the requirements set for Master's theses in terms of scope and standard.

Both the article manuscript and the introduction are examined and evaluated as parts contributing to the Master's thesis.

The thesis is evaluated when the introduction is ready, the supervisors consider the article manuscript to be ready for submission to the journal, and/or when the manuscript has been accepted for a refereeing process.

Uploading the article manuscript and the introduction to the Laturi system

When an article that has been sent to a publisher for evaluation, or is under consideration to be offered for publication in a hitherto unspecified journal, is approved as a Master's thesis, the student shall upload it in full to the Laturi system, where its degree of exposure is recommended to be defined as "only to be read at the library". Thereby the work will also undergo the Urkund anti-plagiarism process.

Stage-by-stage instructions for uploading to the Laturi system:

1. The student sends the introduction part of his or her article-based thesis to the thesis supervisor via Urkund. So, this part does not include the article manuscript at its end (the table of contents can, however, have “Article manuscript” as the last heading, after the references and appendices). At this stage, the student shall deny in Urkund the visibility of the file in the analyses of other educational institutions.
2. When the student uploads the entire work to Laturi (including the article manuscript at its end), he or she shall
 - limit the exposure of the thesis so it can only be read in the library (ticking the item “I do not want my thesis to be publicly available online”) and
 - deny the use of Urkund (ticking the item “I do not allow my thesis to be sent for analysis and storage in the Urkund system”).

Theses with restricted exposure can be read on the eThesis work stations in the library (<http://www.oulu.fi/kirjasto/egradutyomasemat>).

For more information, contact your research group leader, Master’s thesis supervisor or Master’s thesis coordinator.