

Information on the Master thesis in MA Sociology, MA Gender Studies and MA Political Science

1. To complete the master's degree, the subject-specific regulations require a final thesis (master's thesis) with six months of processing time. The thesis should comprise approximately 160,000 characters, including spaces (roughly equivalent to 70 pages). The thesis must be registered at the Examination Office. The processing time may be extended upon application to the dean for good cause.
2. The topic for the master's thesis is assigned by a person authorized to conduct examinations from one of the faculties involved in the degree program, who will also supervise the thesis. The student may submit suggestions for the topic.
3. The master's thesis is assessed by the person who submitted the topic and a second authorized examiner. The additional examiner may be proposed by the student. One of the two examiners must be a professor or habilitated.
4. The supervision and evaluation of the master's thesis can be carried out by any authorized examiners from the faculties involved in the degree program, serving as first and second examiners. In addition, authorized examiners from other faculties may evaluate the thesis as the second examiner. However, the first and second examiners may not belong to the same working group (the same chair).
5. The submission of the thesis is done digitally. The submitted file must be in the form of a searchable PDF and sent in a joint e-mail to 1) the responsible clerk at the Examinations Office, 2) the first examiner, and 3) the second examiner. In addition, the official @uni-bielefeld.de email address is to be used here. The submission time of the digital version determines the compliance with the processing deadline. The further submission of the thesis in paper form (hard copy) can additionally be arranged with the examiners. The printed version must then be submitted to the examiners within 3 days of the digital submission. In this case, the printed version must be accompanied by a confirmation signed by the candidate that the printed version and the digitally submitted version are identical.
6. The grade (numerical value) is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the examiner's individual assessments, provided the difference between the grades does not exceed 2.0. All decimal places except the first are deleted without rounding. If the difference is more than 2.0, a third authorized examiner will be appointed by the dean. In this case, the grade of the master's thesis is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two better grades. However, the master's thesis can only be graded as "satisfactory" or better if at least two grades are "satisfactory" or better.
7. The topic of the master's thesis will be mentioned in the transcript, an informational appendix to the graduation certificate detailing the individual course of study.

In general, the information provided in the original German versions of this document, the Bachelor Examination Regulations (BPO), the module handbook, and the subject-specific regulations is authoritative.

[The instructions were approved by the Teaching Commission on 27.04.2016 and last updated by the Dean of Studies on 21.11.2024.]