



MSc. Thesis module descriptor at AgroParisTech

1. MSc. Thesis Definition:

The MSc. Thesis is a project which includes the following items:

- Running and interpretation of an original experimental and scientific work
- Development and mastery of the project within a given research framework
- Presentation and dissemination of results

2. Aim

The aim of the thesis project is for the student to develop and demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work independently and be able to critical reasoning, reflection, analysis and discussion.

3. Skills and abilities

For a passing grade on the thesis project the student must:

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge in his or her chosen area of research/technology.
- demonstrate an ability to holistically, critically, independently and creatively identify, formulate and manage complex issues;
- demonstrate an ability to participate in research or development work and in so doing, contribute to the development of knowledge;
- demonstrate an ability to plan and with scientific and engineering methods, carry out qualified assignments within specified limits;
- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate the knowledge acquired in key and qualifying courses in the Program;
- demonstrate an ability to, on both national and international levels, clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based both orally and in writing;
- independently identify relevant sources of information, perform information searches, evaluate the relevance of the information and use proper referencing techniques.

4. Values and attitudes

- For a passing grade on the thesis project the student must demonstrate an ability to evaluate his or her own project and those of others in terms of relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects.
- Student works independently on the thesis project. The work is to be carried out individually. The student is responsible for the structure, content, and significance of the given information, together with the value of the work. Third counsellors and shared works have to be mentioned. Student is reminded that plagiarism is forbidden.
- Plagiarism preventing tool: each report will be submitted via TICE platform to the Compilacio plagiarism checker software and analysed looking for similarities with external sources.

5. Assessment

The student has to produce a written report and an oral defense to receive a passing grade on the thesis project.

The evaluation will concern the following contributions:

- the process (internship/project): 20%
- the bibliographic study: 20%
- the thesis manuscript: 30%
- the oral presentation: 30%

The MSc. thesis project will be evaluated as a MSc. module using the "0-20" grading system.



6. Contents

The MSc. thesis project includes:

6.1 A complete **bibliographic study** in English (**no more than 25 pages including all section from the first page of introduction to the last page of conclusion**). Size should be equivalent to 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman; 2.5" margin; space 1.5). The general outline should go through the state of the art and progressively come out to the scientific questions linked to the MSc. thesis and the approach designed to answer them. **A dedicated section in the conclusion** (10 lines to 1 page maximum) should develop the "Food Innovation" aspects in link with the MSc. thesis project. See section 9.3 for useful instructions.

Intermediate presentation of the bibliographic study:

A short presentation (5 slides), in a duration of 10 min maximum, in order to present a draft of the project: a first outline of the bibliography review, how the student expects that it will be organized.

In other words, to answer the following questions:

- What is the topic?
- Who are the stakeholders? You met them? Discussed with them about the biblio?
- What aim(s)?
- What scientific/technological question(s)?
- How are you planning to structure the review: main parts? Availability of biblio resources? Status of progress?
- What will be your strategy to achieve the next steps and succeed the bibliographic study (meeting dates with the tutor, the supervisor, outline, and schedule)?

The intermediate presentation is not evaluated; the aim is to orient and help the student to state the MSc thesis subject and methodology for literature review.

Defense of the bibliographic study:

Oral defense in English: 15 min presentation followed by 15 min of questions/discussion by the jury: Dr. Barbara REGA + Dr. Marwen MOUSSA + The report's reviewer if available. Both the oral presentation and the final version of the bibliographic report are evaluated.

6.2 Participation to the **MSc. thesis workshop** that will be held in Massy in **May**. The aim of this workshop will be to make a mid-term presentation of the ongoing internship and to take profit of questions and discussion with teachers and colleagues. Presentation will be done using posters and will not be evaluated.

The workshop is common to FIPDes and the French MSc. NSA. During the poster presentations, there will be different parallel sessions and one of them will be dedicated to FIPDes. Beside the FIPDes presentations, other poster presentations in French should be attended. Note that all MSc. students are requested to attend the whole day (common rule agreed with the pedagogic teams of other MSc.).

A0 size posters are needed. All posters should contain the logos of the FIPDes consortium.



6.3 A written internship report in English (no more than 30 pages including **all section from the first page of introduction to the last page of conclusion**. Size should be equivalent to 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman; 2.5" margin; space 1.5). The report includes the following sections:

- **Title page** (see standard page)
- A concise and factual **abstract** in English will be included (minimal content: 10 lines and maximal content: 1 page) following the title page. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the report, the principal results and major conclusions. Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords.
- **Table of content.**
- **List of abbreviations** if used.
- **Acknowledgments.**
- **Presentation of the hosting team** (1 page): which company or institute? Which lab(s)? Main objectives of the activities.
- **Introduction:** States the objectives of the work and provides an adequate background. The last part or paragraph of the introduction section will put emphasis on the scientific / technological questions to be addressed and the aim of the project.
- **Material and Methods:** Provides sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. If relevant, a **Theory section** should be presented to extend, not repeat, the background dealt with in the Introduction. If relevant, the **Calculation section** should represent a practical development from a theoretical basis.
- **Results and Discussion:** Provides a clear presentation of the results, gives interpretation and explores the significance of these with regard to published literature.
- **Conclusions and Prospects:** Presents the main conclusions of the study as well as relevant prospects and future investigations. This section should also cover **new insights in Food Innovation** in link with the MSc Thesis.
- **Literature references:** Ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Students are encouraged to use reference management software if available in their hosting teams. Note that some software are free and available via web servers.

Examples are given below. Note that any other coherent style is accepted.

Reference to a journal publication:

Van, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific thesis report. *Journal of Scientific Communications*, 163, 51–59.

Reference to a book:

Struk, G., Jr., & White, B. (2013). *The elements of style*. (3rd ed.). New York: Longman, (Chapter 2).

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Metkal, G. & Adams, B. (2012). How to prepare an electronic version of your thesis. In B. S. Jones, & R. Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the electronic age* (pp. 275–304). New York: E-Publishing Inc.



- **Appendices:** may be useful to give, if necessary, supplemental details for data/information shown in the body of the report or to give supplemental illustrations. All appendices should be numbered and cited in the text.

Note that all tables, figures and other illustrations should be numbered and cited in the text.

6.4 An **oral defense** in English: 20 min of presentation followed by 25 min of questions/discussion.

The assessment of the FIPDes MSc. Thesis is the responsibility of the Master thesis committee:

- The reviewer
- FIPDes permanent jury: Dr. Barbara REGA + Dr. Marwen MOUSSA
- The student's supervisor(s) (highly recommended, but not mandatory)

6.5 An **executive summary** in English (2-4 pages) to be added to a yearbook of abstracts.

6.6 A **dissemination action** (poster or flash oral communication) to be presented during the Final FIPDes Week at Y+2.

7. About the internship agreement

Before starting the internship, the student must have prepared and signed the internship agreement (Convention de stage). The dedicated procedure is detailed on TICE platform.

According to the academic rules in AgroParisTech, the total duration of an internship is limited to 6 months (as fixed by the internship agreement). Extension of the student stay in the hosting team can be set up in agreement between both stakeholders, in the framework of a job contract. The enrolment under AgroParisTech (student status) terminates upon graduation.