



Master Thesis within Healthy Food Design at UNINA

An original experimental work

Master thesis at University of Naples is an experimental and original research work in the broad areas of food science and technology, human nutrition, food innovation, and sensory and consumer science.

Every year several thesis topics are available at the Department of Agricultural Sciences (UNINA) in the frame of ongoing European, National or private company - funded research projects.

The local coordinators provide the students with a list of the available thesis topics and the contacts of the related supervisors. Students can contact the professors and meet them for discussing and getting more information about project objectives, experiments, timeline, expected results and expectations. Moreover, **students can search other thesis project opportunities elsewhere in other Academic/Research Institutions as well as in Companies, in Italy or abroad.**

The duration of process of MSc definition and project assignment is variable and depend from the student choice: a thesis within UNINA or a thesis in other Academic/Research Institutions or in Companies.

In the case of thesis projects offered by other Academic/Research Institutions/Companies with whom UNINA still do not have collaboration agreements, the process is usually a bit longer. In fact, in these cases the thesis plan and timeline must be carefully designed in order to cope with UNINA timetable of pedagogic activities, rules and administrative requirements for master thesis defense. Moreover, an Erasmus+ Traineeship agreement (without scholarship) must be signed between UNINA International Office and the foreign Institution.

Towards the thesis choice

During the process to select a thesis project, it is responsibility of the student (helped by the supervisor), to **provide the coordinators with an A4 page scheme summary of the thesis project** structured as follow:

- Background
- Aim of the thesis/Hypothesis to test
- Methodology and timeline of experiments
- Expected results/Impact of the findings

The summary will be evaluated by the coordinators to check that the thesis project agrees with the UNINA requirements (an original experimental work in the research area of Healthy Food Design) and is feasible (for timing and methodology) within the 4th Semester respecting all the administrative requirements.



Working for the master thesis: individual work and experiments

Once the choice of the project is done, the plan of activities is ready and the student has been officially assigned the thesis topic and the thesis supervisor (hopefully within the end of October, final deadline December), it is student responsibility to study the state of the art about the thesis topic and the methodologies.

In general, **the laboratory work is from February (4th Semester) until mid of July** and during these months it is responsibility of the student to update the supervisor (with a frequency planned between them) and to make he/she aware of project advancements or possible problems. **During these months the student has to start writing down his/her thesis report so that it can be finalized and revised by the supervisor over the last month (mid of June to mid of July).**

Writing the thesis book and attending the defense

The master thesis work must be submitted, after supervisor approval, as a **written report on a CD-ROM**. Moreover, a hard copy of that must be available for the defense. The **book of the thesis** must contain the description of the scientific background, the aim of the thesis, the materials and methods used, the results achieved and the discussion of those results based on previous literature in the field, the conclusions of the work and the references. In other words, the thesis book is like an extended scientific paper.

So, basing on the work done by the student within the mid of June the **supervisor finally decides if the student is ready** to attend the master thesis defense in July.

At UNINA **the thesis defense is always at the end of July and it is considered as a final exam where the student has to present** (using a ppt presentation) **his/her thesis in a public seminar** in front of a Commission of UNINA Professors expert in the research fields of the thesis topics.

Contextually to the preparation of the thesis report and defense presentation the student has to prepare and get supervisor approval for the thesis poster and executive summary to present during the FIPDes day (September, Paris).

After the thesis defense student can finally enjoy Summer Holidays!