

Template for Master Thesis Design Information Science

Abstract/Purpose

You use this template for your thesis design document. You keep the main sections and stick to the overall setup. The template is [available in Latex](#) too. Below the template you find the form which supervisors use to assess your thesis design.

Thesis design template

Based on https://wiki.cs.vu.nl/mp/index.php/Information_Sciences_Master#Thesis_design

The goal of a thesis design is to write a research proposal on the subject of your chosen master project. The research proposal consists of the following content:

1. A title, supervisor(s) and abstract
 1. Plus clickable links to email addresses of author, supervisors and **private** github repository of the thesis project.
2. A clearly defined research problem and corresponding subquestions
3. Overview of the state of the art of the literature
 1. Clearly indicate how your approach is grounded in the literature
4. Methodology
 1. Describe your "resources" (those that are applicable)
 - data
 - algorithms
 - software
 2. Describe the methods you will use
 3. Describe how you evaluate your results
5. Risk assessment
 1. Describe the risks, and describe your backup plan for each of them.
6. Project plan
 1. You describe what you have achieved when.
 2. This typically has the shape of a table with 12 entries (one for each week).
 3. The last entry is clear (Thesis).
 4. Other entries refer always back to your subquestions, methodology, literature.
 5. You describe concrete achievements, not actions. (e.g., instead of *data preparation* you write *all data in XXX format, well-described, ready for analysis using YYY*)

Please note that the maximum length for the thesis design is 4 pages using the provided

latex template.

[Link to latex template](#)

Thesis template (in Dutch)

You find a thesis template containing some nice tricks (e.g., about creating Latex tables in pandas and adding your presentation slides as an appendix in <https://github.com/maartenmarx/ThesisTemplate>)

Thesis Design assessment form

Below you see the weight of each section and the questions used by the supervisor to assess the sections.

1. A title, supervisor(s), abstract **(10)**
 - *Is all clear and neat?*
2. A clearly defined research problem and corresponding subquestions **(20)**
 - Can the problem be answered?
 - Do answers to the subquestions indeed help in an understanding of the research problem or even in solving the research problem?
 - Are the subquestions detailed enough?
3. Overview of the state of the art of the literature **(20)**
 - One expects that the research problem is grounded in the literature and that each subquestion or field has a small section of relevant literature.
 - All parts of the thesis should be grounded in or at least connected to the literature.
4. Methodology **(20)**
 1. Do I get a clear picture of the used resources?
 1. E.g., for data, do I get a clear picture of the data, its state, its availability, how much it is, how dirty, how much work to process, etc, etc.
 2. Are the methods which will be used described in enough detail, so that I can picture what will be done exactly?
 3. Is the evaluation appropriate? That is, do I understand how each subquestion is answered by the evaluation?
5. Risk assessment **(10)**
 - Is it complete? Is it realistic? Is the backup plan executable?
6. Project plan **(20)**
 - Is it complete? (I.e., every part of the work covered.)
 - Is it realistic?
 - Does it give a clear picture of what will be done when?
 - Is it possible to evaluate whether the student is on schedule at any point in time?