FACULTY
OF SCIENCES

FACULTY OF
BIOSCIENCE ENGINEERING

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AND ARCHITECTURE

Layout of the master thesis

The language of the Master's dissertation is **English**.

Writing clear texts with a logical structure and without grammatical errors is an important scientific and professional skill. We encourage everybody, and students with dyslexia in particular, to use spelling or grammar checkers wherever possible. When a very large number of tables, figures and/or listings form an essential part of the report, they may be deferred to appendices that are included in the thesis or with an URL. Note that in this case, it is important to refer correctly in the main text of the report to these appendices. Together with the written reports, the documented programming code that was used in the thesis, as well as all relevant software output, must be submitted on a GitHub platform.

Format

- Size: A4
- Margins electronic version: normal (2.5 cm)
- Margins hard copy (2-sided): Mirror margins: front side has free left margin of 4 cm, right margin of 1 cm; back side is the other way around. Top and bottom margins: 2.5 cm
- Font: Calibri 12 (except: References and Figure and Table legends: see below)
- Alignment: Justified
- Paragraph: no indents, but each paragraph is followed by a spacing of 6 pt
- Header: Chapter title
- Page numbering: Bottom of page - Right
- Every new chapter starts on a new page on the right
- Numbering of subtitles is limited to 3 (e.g. max. 2.3.6)
- References in the text: (name first author et al., year)
- Figures: are referred to in the text and mention the source
- Figures and tables: are numbered and have a legend, starting with a title in bold; Font: Calibri 10
- LaTeX can also be used; the template is available on the Ufora "Master of Science in Bioinformatics: overkoepelende infosite".

Composition (example PDF available on Ufora)

The following is just a guideline and deviations can be made when necessary, for instance for a thesis about a method development.

- Cover page with standard or confidentiality statement (ask your promoter which one is needed): template is available on Ufora
- Preface
- Table of contents (list with figures and list with tables can be added)
- List of abbreviations and symbols
- Abstract (max. 1 page)
- Introduction (10-20 pages)
  Relevant literature: cite only what is useful to frame and to understand, with attention to a critical synthesis. Clearly mention the relationship between the literature and the problem statement that was at the basis of the experimental part.
- Aims (1-3 pages)
- Materials and Methods (3-10 pages)* [can be split in a separate Materials and Methods section if the main focus of the thesis is the method development]
- Results (20-40 pages)* [can contain the description of the method if the main focus of the thesis is the method development]
- Discussion (3-10 pages)
- References:
  In Calibri 10, according to EMBO Journal format; can be made using EndNote or Zotero
- Appendices (can be in electronic format)
- Empty page (2-sided)
- Cover (cardboard paper type)

* The order of Materials and Methods versus Results can be changed.

Instructions for the acknowledgement of contributions by third parties (optional)

Numerous scientific data are the result of cooperative efforts between several scientists. In some cases, materials or data are even fully generated by third parties (e.g. mass spectrometry, construction of plasmids, transfection of cells, …). In scientific publications, it is common practice to acknowledge these contributions. For this reason, we suggest to include an additional page (at the end of the 'aims' section or at the start of the 'results' section), mentioning the persons having contributed substantially to the results and used materials.

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