

FAQ MAster thesis



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Table of Contents

[2 First Step: General Info 2](#_Toc182229482)

[3 First Step: Practical Info 5](#_Toc182229483)

[3.1 Miscellanea of related questions 5](#_Toc182229484)

[4 Second Step: Thesis 6](#_Toc182229485)

[4.1 Templates for thesis 6](#_Toc182229486)

[5 Third Step: Thesis Discussion and Presentation 7](#_Toc182229487)

[5.1 Templates for presentation 7](#_Toc182229488)

# First Step: General Info

This was the longest message found within the group on the topic:

Basically, there are 3 ways to carry out the thesis: internal project, project with company internship, or internal project with start-up view. It is recommended to have at most 1 or 2 exams left before starting the project.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to illustrating the evaluation procedure for the Master's Thesis (<https://informatica.math.unipd.it/en/master/graduation/>) and the calculation of the final grade. The new regulation applies to those who graduate from July 2023 onwards, regardless of whether one has taken the courses in Italian or English.

Furthermore, in response to questions, the professor (Baldan) said that:

* It is possible to carry out the thesis project abroad/in Erasmus
* The duration of the project (six months) is only a suggestion, but the project can last longer
* The main topic of the project must be related to computer science (but it may not be the only area of the project, especially if carried out for a startup)
* The discussion of the thesis usually takes place 1/2 days before the proclamation date and the discussion date is communicated about 10-15 days in advance
* It is possible to cancel the graduation request once submitted (although every time you resubmit the request you have to repeat the tuition fee payment, around 30 euros)
* To graduate you need to follow these steps (<https://www.unipd.it/en/graduation>) without forgetting any of them
* The website <https://informatica.math.unipd.it/en/master/> contains many useful information

Additionally, prof. Baldan said that today's invited lecturer for Advanced Topics in Computer Science cannot come in person and a live meeting will be projected in 1BC50.

The website (<https://informatica.math.unipd.it/en/master/graduation/>) specifies the following:

Immagine che contiene testo, schermata, Carattere

Descrizione generata automaticamente

Immagine che contiene testo, schermata, Carattere, numero

Descrizione generata automaticamente

Quoting directly from the site (in case it goes down, sadly it happens):  
To stimulate thesis projects with Startup-View and Internships, the course of study **organises Company-student meetings with the support of the partners**.

**When to start and how to find a supervisor**

The Master Thesis is the concluding activity of the study path. Since it is intended to lead to the realization of a relevant piece of work, it requires the student to work regularly and with limited distractions. For this reasons, the Master Project should be started after finishing the course exams or, at least, when the number of course exams still to be given is limited (say, 2/3 at most).  Ideally, this should happen at the beginning of the second semester of the second year (but in case you are late with the exams, first concentrate on them).

When you feel ready to start, the first step consists in **finding a supervisor** (this applies also to the case in which you might be interested in realising your project in a company). There is no formalized procedure for this: simply contact the professors of the courses that you liked most and/or in the area where you’d like to realise your project and discuss the possible thesis themes.

**Evaluation of the Master Thesis (from July 2023)**

The **final degree grade** is calculated as the sum of the **master thesis grade** and the **weighted average of the exams** passed, normalized on a scale of 0 to 110 (i.e., average \* 110/30).

The master thesis is evaluated according to the following **grading scheme**:

* 0-3: sufficient
* 4-5: good
* 6-7: very good
* 8-9: excellent (requires the opinion of an **independent reviewer**)

The supervisor proposes a grade, possibly asking for the opinion of an independent reviewer. The student presents the thesis in front a **graduation committee** (the discussion is in English). The final grade is decided by the **graduation committee** through a majority vote. The **distinction (laude)** is awarded to students who demonstrated very good or excellent quality in the curriculum, in the thesis, and in the final thesis defense; it requires **unanimity**.

The following **bonus points** are added to the thesis grade:

* **1 point** for completing **all** exams by **July** of the second year
* **1 point** for graduation by **December** of the second year

A document providing more details on the procedure is available at the following [link](https://informatica.math.unipd.it/files/RegolamentoTesiMagistrale-EN-2023.pdf).

Other links of reference:

* Upload thesis and other Uniweb procedures (Italian)
  + <https://www.unipd.it/manuali-uniweb>

# First Step: Practical Info

Now:

* The best way is to first talk to the professor you want to have the thesis with, that is a professor of the field/topics you are interested in
  + the supervisor must be related to the topics of the thesis and usually coincides with the major path; no problem if you do something else anyway

## Miscellanea of related questions

These questions are to be found within the group or people which I personally helped over the years with, so I collect them here.

* I have no idea what to do – what can I do to start?
  + Talk with professors, go out and look for a company or a startup. No one will guide you, you just have to first find a supervisor, then start looking for projects which may be interesting both for your supervisor and a possible company/startup, but first of all yourself.
* Can Professors from other departments supervise master thesis?
  + Hi, when I started my thesis (march 2023) this was not possible, I was told from professor Baldan that only professors teaching strictly inside computer science (which should be those here (<https://en.didattica.unipd.it/off/2023/LM/SC/SC2598>), but relative to the year you started) can be supervisors.

Nothing stops you from having another external supervisor if you're working with another department, but you may need to find an internal professor willing to follow you as well as main supervisor, unless these rules changed.

I suggest you to ask directly to the head of studies, so according to this page (<https://informatica.math.unipd.it/en/master/admission.html> ) professors Palazzi and Da San Martino

* Does anyone know how many days before the graduation ceremony we must upload the final version of the thesis?
  + 2 weeks
* When will I receive the timetable for graduation and stuff?
  + Within 2 weeks, it depends
* As far as you know, has a professor ever refused to approve a thesis on Uniweb?
  + So far it very rarely happened, almost never
* Does anyone know how long the thesis presentation is? And is there usually a few questions at the end?
  + The graduation date and discussion date are different. Later we will receive an email including the pdf with timings and everything.
* Is anyone familiar with who to contact for a faculty supervisor to an internship through the career office? I see some other programs have dedicated faculty members for this.
  + Email to [stage@unipd.it](mailto:stage@unipd.it)
  + And ask for the rector of your degree

# Second Step: Thesis

Generally:

* There is no strict/mandatory requirement for the thesis, do as you like about number of pages, font, size, sections. This depends on your supervisor usually
* YOU DO NOT NEED to print your thesis
* It has to be uploaded on <https://servizi-informatica.math.unipd.it/>

## Templates for thesis

This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but it may be useful:

LaTeX:

* <https://github.com/FIUP/Thesis-template>
* <https://github.com/giovannifil-64/unipd-thesis-template>
* <https://github.com/lusergit/thesis-template>

Typst:

* <https://github.com/eliapasquali/typst-thesis-template>
* <https://github.com/BIRSAx2/unipd-thesis-typst>

Some thesis examples:

* <https://github.com/lusergit/master-thesis>
* <https://github.com/DrBurraco/Cybersecurity-MsC-Unipd>
* <https://github.com/Kekkodf/Master-Thesis>
* <https://github.com/Gheeroppa/UnipdMasterThesis>
* <https://github.com/FilippoFantinato/model-checking-and-synthesis-of-best-effort-strategies-for-safety-and-co-safety-ltl>

Everything (for both slides and written templates – shameless plug, but I created this repo on purpose):

* <https://github.com/gabrielrovesti/UniPD-Swiss-Knife-Notes-Slides>

# Third Step: Thesis Discussion and Presentation

The graduation date and discussion date are different. Later you will receive an email including the pdf with timings and everything.

It lasts 15 minutes + 5 of questions.

## Templates for presentation

If you look inside of GitHub, you will find with ease everything you need:

PowerPoint:

* <https://github.com/cipz/unipd_slide_tempate>

Typst:

* <https://github.com/SkiFire13/typst-slides-unipd>
* <https://github.com/lusergit/presentation-slides>
* <https://github.com/augustozanellato/polylux-unipd>

Beamer:

* <https://github.com/codatomrc/PadovaThesis>
* <https://www.math.unipd.it/~burattin/other/tema-latex-beamer-padova/>
* <https://github.com/lusergit/presentation-slides>