

# Guidelines for Grading Master Theses

In the assessment of MA thesis research, 5 parts are taken into account: research, thesis, process, presentation, and software. Examiners have the freedom to weight these parts as they believe is fit for the research project, though thesis and research should have highest weight .

As an assessment panel only looks at the thesis itself and the research described therein, the grades for thesis and research should always be sufficient (a grade of 6 or more). Thus, candidates CANNOT pass if the thesis or the research is insufficient.

Below guidelines are given for grading the thesis research as a whole, that a MA work should at least comply with to achieve a certain grade.

Grade	Description
10	Scientific breakthrough, the described thesis research would lead to a top-ranked journal.
9.5	Research will make serious impact, described thesis research work would lead to high-ranked journal.
9	Research has advanced state of the art, at the level of a good PhD student. Described thesis research would lead to a peer reviewed journal or top-rated conference.
8.5	Research did advance state of the art to a certain extent. Just short of a journal publication in itself, but is of a sufficient level for refereed conference publication or a substantial part of a journal publication.
8	Some original research work has been performed. Described thesis research would be acceptable to be presented at a lightly reviewed workshop or conference.
7.5	Student has mastered the topic, research contains no flaws. An attempt has made to do original research. Results are still useful.
7	Student has mastered the topic, research contains no flaws but is not original.
6.5	Student has understood the topic but weak spots in conducted research / thesis writing.
6	Student has familiarized the topic. Several weak spots in conducted research / thesis writing.
<5.5	Insufficient. Student should not have presented in the first place.