

GUIDE FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

MASTER'S DEGREE IN

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY

1) **GRADUATION APPLICATION:** To take the final graduation exam, the student must submit a graduation application using the *self-studenti* portal within the deadlines specified for the intended session: summer (July), autumn (October), winter (December), or extraordinary.

2) **GRADUATION THESIS:**

- The thesis must be an experimental piece of work, therefore it must present the observations underlying the hypotheses related to the work performed, as well as whether those hypotheses were accepted or rejected based on the results.
- The examination board will evaluate the quality of the written thesis. Students are therefore advised to exercise great care during the drafting process (regarding both editing and content) and the final proofreading of the text.
- Use of AI: Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently meet authorship criteria. Specifically, authorship entails responsibility for the work, a requirement that cannot effectively be applied to LLMs. The use of LLMs in drafting the thesis is not permitted, as human responsibility for the final version of the text is required. The final version of the thesis will be checked for LLM usage; failure to comply may result in the student being barred from taking the graduation exam.

Thesis Formatting

The thesis must be prepared according to the following guidelines:

- The thesis must be divided into the following sections: Title Page, Abstract (maximum 25 lines), Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Bibliography.

The conclusions may be incorporated into the Discussion or presented in a separate section.

- There is no length limit for the thesis;
- Margins must be 3 cm at the top and bottom;
- Line spacing: 1.5;

- Font: 12-point Times New Roman throughout the text;
- Tables and graphs must be numbered. Table text must be 10-point Times New Roman with single line spacing;
- All references cited in the text must be listed in the Bibliography section, and all literature listed must appear in the text.
- The **bibliography** must be formatted according to the following rules:

a. In-text citations

The work must be cited differently depending on whether it was authored by one person, two people, or more than two people:

- 1 One Author – as in the example: (Rossi 2023)
- 2 Two Authors – use ‘&’ between the two surnames, as in the example: (Rossi & Bianchi 2023)
- 3 Two or more Authors – use the first surname followed by ‘et al.’, as in the example: (Rossi et al., 2023)
- 4 If citing multiple articles by the same author published in the same year results in identical in-text citations, they must be distinguished using a lowercase letter, as in the example: (Rossi & Bianchi 2023a, 2023b)
- 5 Multiple citations within the same parentheses should be separated by a semicolon (;), as in the example: (Rossi & Bianchi 2023; Rossi et al., 2024)

b. In the bibliography (list of references)

Journal articles must be cited by listing:

- the authors (surname followed by abbreviated first name)
- the year of publication
- the article title
- the journal name
- the volume number and page numbers, as in the example:

Planes S., Ravento N., Ferrari B., Alcoverro T. (2011) Fish herbivory leads to shifts in seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* investments in sexual reproduction. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 431, 205–213

Books must be cited similarly but must also include the publisher and place of publication, as in the example:

Hanski I. (2005) The shrinking world: ecological consequences of habitat loss. In: Kinne O. (ed) Excellence in ecology, Book 14. International Ecology Institute, Oldendorf/Luhe

Websites: Permanent databases such as FishBase, GenBank, or climatological sources may be included in the list of cited literature (providing the date of access); URLs for printed publications that are also available online may be included with the corresponding citations, as in the example:

Froese F., Pauly D. (2009) FishBase. www.fishbase.org (accessed 13 Jan 2013)

Other cited websites may be listed directly in the text.

- 3) **UPLOAD THE THESIS:** The PDF version of the thesis, as agreed upon with the supervisor, must be uploaded to the *self-studenti* portal no later than 14 days prior to the graduation session.
- 4) **WAITING PERIOD:** After uploading the thesis, the student must wait for the Graduation Board Chair to contact him/her with details regarding the session. This will only occur once all ECTS for completed exams and the internship have been recorded and the final list of candidates for the graduation session has been confirmed. Only then will the Graduation Board be appointed and the schedule for the graduation session finalized.
- 5) **MAILING THE THESIS TO THE BOARD:** Candidates are required to email the PDF version of their thesis to all members of the Graduation Board no later than two days before the graduation date. The names of the Board members will be communicated to the candidate by the Board Chair approximately five days prior to the session.
- 6) **GRADUATION EXAM:** On the day of the graduation exam, the candidate will have 12 minutes to present his/her thesis work using a PowerPoint presentation. He/she may also be required to answer specific questions from the Graduation Board regarding the internship experience. The quality of the presentation will be evaluated by the Graduation Board.