

MS INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

MASTER THESIS

Preparation for the Master Thesis begins during the second year.

Under the supervision of the Professor of the programme, students will be asked to submit an original research proposal and give some idea of the research plan. The Master Thesis must fulfil the originality and autonomy requirements. Two main features will be evaluated:

- Capability of autonomous development of a research project, conceptualized in research questions;
- Articulation of a research project that highlights a) correct use of sources, data and methodologies, b) ability of the student to elaborate pattern of analysis and discussion of findings; c) control of results in terms of implications and contributions in literature.

There are two types of Master Thesis. For students who take an Internship (8 ECTS), the Thesis counts for 12 ECTS; for students who take the Innovation process management Lab or Entrepreneurship Lab (4 ECTS), the Thesis will be worth 16 ECTS.

1) Master thesis of 12 ECTS

This typology of Master Thesis is configured as the *result of the Internship experience* (8 ECTS) in a Company or at a Catholic University's department. Some conditions must be respected:

- a) the Internship must be aimed at a specific activity having a professional content coherent with the educational goal of the Master of Science in Innovation and Technology Management;
- b) the Internship must produce a report;
- c) the report and the Master Thesis must be clearly discernable, both respectively characterized by a specific and different aims. In fact, this Thesis is the student's individual dissertation on a specific topic connected to the job developed during the internship.

The Thesis accounts for 12 ECTS. It is estimated that the student will be engaged in this Thesis for about 5 months (Internship included). The whole work is approximately 80-100 pages long. The topic is to be structured as follows: a) brief introduction of the topic, conceptually (some literature references); b) development of the project taken in the internship; c) discussion and managerial suggestions

The Individual project work confers 12 ECTS to the student and the student is evaluated in a range from 0 to 6 points:

- 0-2: the Thesis doesn't respect the conditions regarding its different status from the report. The requirements of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project aren't satisfied. Originality and critical analysis aren't demonstrated due to a mere description and summary of the theme of research.
- 3-4: the Thesis has partially reached the main features of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project. It moderately demonstrates originality and critical analysis.
- 5-6: the Thesis has met the main purposes demonstrating ability of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project through an original and critical analysis.

According to the proposal of 5-6 points for the Thesis or in order to confer a graduation with honor, the Supervisor has to anticipate a written and reasoned motivation to the Degree Board.

The attribution of graduation with honor depends on the curriculum, final grade average and achievement of the 5-6 points range.

2) Individual project work of 16 ECTS

This Master Thesis is for students who have participated to the second year Lab.

This Individual project work is the student's individual dissertation on a research topic suggested by the student and/or by the academic Supervisor. This Thesis is based on a project aimed at developing new knowledge on an innovative topic of particular interest for companies and researchers. Students can decide if conducting a theoretical or empirical research project:

- *Theoretical research project* is characterized by an appropriate use of sources and methodological tools from scientific and not scientific literature. The candidate contribution is evaluated on its ability to identify a gap in the literature and then to select, analyze and discuss sources in order to extend the existing knowledge.
- *Empirical research project* is composed by a practical research built on the study of literature and empirical evidences. In this specific form, the contribution of the candidate is evaluated on the adequacy and methodological rigor of detection techniques, and its ability to elaborate autonomous interpretation regarding theoretical or practical problems.

The Thesis accounts for 16 ECTS. It is estimated that the student will be engaged in this Individual project for about 6 months (also in parallel with the latest exams). The whole work is approximately 120-140 pages long. The dissertation is expected to prove originality and autonomous activity and effort by the student

The student is evaluated in a range from 0 to 8 points:

- 0-3: the Thesis doesn't respect the requirements of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project. Originality and critical analysis aren't demonstrated due to a mere description and summary of the theme of research.
- 4-6: the Thesis has partially reached the main features of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project. It moderately demonstrates originality and critical analysis.
- 7-8: the Thesis has met the main purposes demonstrating ability of autonomous development and correct articulation of the research project through an original and critical analysis.

According to the proposal of 7-8 points for the Thesis or in order to confer a graduation with honor, the Supervisor has to anticipate a written and reasoned motivation to the Degree Board. The attribution of graduation with honor depends on the curriculum, final grade average and achievement of the 7-8 points range.

Calculation of the average graduation grade

The calculation of the average graduation grade takes place through the weighted average of the marks of the profit exams; the grade 30 e lode is calculated as 31. The average calculated in thirtieths is re-expressed in one hundred and ten.