

Guidelines Master thesis

Climate Physics: Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

1. Timeframe and formalities

- Thesis topic and starting date must be arranged directly with the advisors (examiners).
 - Form „Antrag auf Zulassung“ (application form for Master thesis, available only in German) is to be submitted to the exam office at least one week before the intended starting date, and at the earliest date three weeks before the intended starting date (formal requirement: 60 ECTS points).
 - The form has to be signed (and thereby formally issued) by the Chair of the Examination Board (Prof. Dr. Martin Visbeck) and both thesis advisors.
 - The period from when the topic is issued until the Master thesis is submitted is 6 months.
 - Thesis topic may only be returned once within the first six weeks after issuing the initial topic.
 - The Chair of the Examination Board may extend the deadline for preparing the thesis upon request by the candidate for technical or other reasons for which the candidate cannot be held responsible, in accordance with the PVO (Exam Procedure Rules) for Bachelor's and Master's degree programme.
 - Layout matters such as font type and size, margins etc. of the master thesis are not specified, but freely selectable.
 - Thesis language is English.
 - An abstract of the thesis must be provided in English (Exam Regulation Rules 2019 and later; earlier rules require an additional German abstract).
 - The declaration (see template) has to be included.
 - Two printed copies of the thesis and an identical electronic version must be submitted to the exam office. **Please note: CD-ROMs are accepted. USB-sticks cannot be accepted. An upload is also possible: further information available through the Geosciences exam office.**
- name of file: Surname_____Matriculation number_____

In a seminar which forms part of the Master thesis module the students will hold short presentations (20 minutes max.) in which they outline the topics and methods of their work and discuss any arising questions. This presentation can be held either within the current curriculum (e.g. climPOSEM) or at the hosting institute in case of an external Master thesis. One of the supervisors must be present.

A participation in the module climSCIENCE in the semester before starting work on the master thesis is recommended.

Following documents can be downloaded from the Info-Center:

- Application of admittance to thesis, “Antrag auf Zulassung zur Masterarbeit” (available only in German)
- Application of changing of thesis topic “Antrag auf Titeländerung der Masterarbeit” (available only in German)

-Application of extension of thesis deadline, “Antrag auf Verlängerung der Bearbeitungszeit der Masterarbeit“(available only in German)

In case of illness please contact your thesis advisor and the exam office. These forms are mandatory if you have to extend the thesis deadline for medical reasons:

-Form Medical certificate, Formular für die Bescheinigung der Prüfungsunfähigkeit (available only in German), and also

-Application of withdrawal from the exam for good reason, “Antrag auf Rücktritt aus triftigem Grund von Prüfungen” (available only in German)

2. Advisors

Please see <https://www.geomar.de/de/studieren/msc-climate-physics/info-center/> for an overview of possible advisors and research areas.

3. Thesis guidelines and format

Please note:

A general structure will usually include a title page, an abstract, a table of contents, lists of tables and figures, an introduction, a data and methods part, the results part, a discussion, a summary, and finally, a reference part, and will conclude with the mandatory “declaration”.

Page range may vary according to topic and methods.

Font type, font size, and margins are not specified.

Out of consideration for the environment you might want to use two-sided pages and not too much page margin when printing, and refrain from using a plastic cover.

TITLE PAGE

ABSTRACT (half a page length)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (optional)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

1 INTRODUCTION

- General description of the topic
- Literature Review
- State of the art
- Theoretical/Methods framework
- Research objectives/questions
- Structure of the thesis

2 DATA AND METHODS

- Data / Models / Instruments
- Analysis Methods

3 FINDINGS/RESULTS

- Result Area A
- Result Area B
- Result Area C ...

4 DISCUSSION

- Discussion of the results with regard to the current knowledge
- Point out differences to or confirm previous results

5 CONCLUSIONS

- Research summary
- Practical implications
- Limitations of the study
- Suggestions for further research

REFERENCES

- List of all publications quoted in customary journal format

APPENDICES

DECLARATION

Please make data and software used in the Master thesis available on the submitted disc or via upload for reasons of transparency and in keeping with good scientific practice.

It is strongly encouraged that students allow access to the electronic version of their thesis. Please get in touch with the library/ publications@geomar.de .