

MASTER'S THESIS GUIDELINES

1. Introduction

The master's thesis is an original contribution that shows that the student can work in a scholarly manner. It allows students to explore techniques, questions and problems related to the area of Natural Language Processing (NLP).

It is a compulsory requirement to complete the master Language Analysis and Processing / Hizkuntzaren Azterketa eta Prozesamendua (HAP/LAP) or the European Master in Language and Communication Technologies (LCT).

All LCT and HAP/LAP students must complete a 30-ECTS-credit master's thesis as part of their programme. The final report must be 50 pages minimum and can be written in Basque, Spanish or English.

2. Completing the master's thesis at the University of the Basque Country

The process for completing the master's thesis at the University of the Basque Country is as follows.

Topic selection

You should decide your thesis topic by **June-September**.

1. You can choose your topic among the ones proposed in the eGela platform. These proposals are all linked to one or more supervisors. Get in contact with them as soon as possible.
2. If you want to propose your own topic, you must get in contact with the local coordinator. If the Academic Committee considers the topic is appropriate, they will assign you a supervisor suitable for the topic proposed.
3. If you are not sure about your master's thesis topic, you should ask your tutor for advice. Following their advice, contact the possible supervisors.

As soon as you define your topic and have the consent of the supervisor(s), notify the master's coordinator about it.

Also, LCT students should contact their first-year university so that they are assigned a supervisor there and they are informed about their requirements.

Research

Once you are assigned a supervisor, you will define the specific piece of research you will be carrying out and establish a work schedule. During the following months, you will have meetings with your supervisor, who will guide you through the research and write-up.

Submission

You must upload the final report to the eGela within the specified period.

There are two submission calls for the master's thesis:

- (1) For the first call, there will be three options: October, February or June
- (2) The second call will take place in September.

You will be notified in advance about the specific dates for each call, which will also be published in the eGela platform.

Defence

You will have 20 minutes to present your master's thesis orally in front of an evaluation panel. The panel will consist of three members one of which will be your supervisor at UPV/EHU. Together, they will decide on an overall grade.

3. Completing the master's thesis at a partner university (only for LCT students)

The University of the Basque Country accommodates the processes and requirements of the partner Universities as much as possible. However, it is essential that you comply with a number of requirements.

Supervisor

You must contact the local coordinator at UPV/EHU as soon as you have decided on your research topic so that you are assigned a supervisor at UPV/EHU.

Research

Your supervisor should be informed about the specific piece of research you intend to carry out. The involvement of the UPV/EHU supervisor in guiding the research project will depend on your needs.

Submission

UPV/EHU will not interfere with the submission process and schedule of the partner University, with which you must comply. However, it is essential that you submit your work to your UPV/EHU supervisor — in order to obtain his/her approval — prior to the final submission at the partner University.

4. Structure of the master's thesis report

The following is a proposal for the structure of a master's thesis report.

Title page

- Title of the master's thesis
- Your full name
- Master's thesis. HAP/LAP or LCT
- University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

Abstract

The abstract should be approximately 150 words long. It should be written in English and in Basque. Explain the purpose of your work, a summary of the methodology and the general findings.

Key words.

Please list 4-6 keywords.

Table of Contents

With page references (it can include various levels of headings).

List of Tables.

Include the number and title of the table and the page number where the table appears in the text.

List of Figures.

Include the number and title of the figure and the page number where the figure appears in the text.

Chapter 1. Introduction

- Purpose of the study.
- Definition of key concepts.
- Explain structure of the master's thesis.

Chapter 2. Literature Review

- Summary of different views on the specific topic under study and discussion of the strong and weak points of these views.
- General conclusion about recent trends in the specific topic.
- Rationale for current study explaining its possible contribution to the topic area.
- Research questions.

Chapter 3. Methodology

- Explain the design of the study.
- Provide information about participants, instruments and procedure.

Chapter 4. Findings

- Analyses of the data according to the research questions including tables and figures when

appropriate.

Chapter 5. Conclusion, Summary & Implications

- Restate the purpose of the study
- Draw conclusions taking into account your findings, the research questions and review of the literature
- Explain the limitations of the study
- Suggested areas for further research and study
- Discuss implications for education

Chapters 2 to 5 could have a brief introduction at the beginning and a summary at the end.

References.

References must be given in a coherent (APA style, MLA, ISO 690...)

Appendices.

The instruments used and other materials that can be useful can be included here. Documents confirming ethical approvals can be placed here.