

INSPIRATION for the MASTER DISSERTATION EXAM

The questions below can provide the assessment committee with inspiration during the master dissertation exam. The questions are grouped by final competency and the key word indicates the topic they specifically address. The list is by no means exhaustive, nor is it intended that all these questions should be asked.

Competency	Key word	Example question
Search for information	Importance of sources Exclusion criteria Method Selection criteria Arguments	Why were these x sources identified as the main sources? What exclusion criteria were used to decide that certain sources were not useful to answer this research question? How did you obtain these papers, articles... or these authors? On what basis did you select these papers, articles, monographs...? What arguments were decisive in choosing these papers, articles...?
Formulation of research question	Trajectory Broader discipline	What route did you take to arrive at your final research questions? How does your research question fit into the broader (technical) scientific research discipline in which your master's dissertation is situated?
Method	Alternatives Selection criteria Method choice Adjusting Roadmap Risk mitigation Out-of-the-box Strengths and weaknesses Lifelong learning	Give three possible methods you could have used to answer the research question and outline on what basis you chose between them. Which other research methods did you encounter in the literature and why did you specifically choose your method? In what way did you determine which methods were appropriate for your research? What challenges did you encounter in applying the methodology and how did you solve them? What was the roadmap you followed, explicitly or not, in applying the chosen methodology? Did you anticipate possible risks concerning your methodology at the start of your master's thesis? In retrospect, how could you have done so? Thinking away all practical limitations, would you have applied a different methodology? If so, which one? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology you chose? As part of your master's thesis, did you consult other sources apart from your professors, courses and the scientific literature?
Applying knowledge in an integrated manner	Program specific Terminology Word choice	Within the research field of your master's dissertation, the term '...' is used. Can you explain this term/concept? Within your master's thesis, you use the term '...'. Why do you use this term and not another one?
Dealing with uncertainty	Unexpected results Circumstances Broader perspective	How did you deal with unexpected results or uncertainties during your research? How did you respond to changing circumstances while conducting research for your master's dissertation? How did dealing with uncertainty and variability during your master's dissertation influence your perspective on research and problem solving?
Processing and communication of results	Challenges Validity Progress Substantiation Medium choice Key message	What challenges did you experience in interpreting your results and how did you deal with them? How did you assess and ensure the validity of your research findings? How did your master's dissertation research contribute to your ability to approach research critically and make informed decisions? How did you substantiate and justify important decisions in your research? Based on what arguments did you conclude that the medium you used to communicate your results was the most appropriate? How did you determine which was the key message you wanted to communicate regarding your results?
Societal reflection	Popularisation Societal contribution Environmental impact International Relevance Changing view Scale	How did you make it clear to family and/or friends what the research within your master's dissertation was about? What direction should the research in which your master's dissertation was situated take in order to create the greatest possible social contribution? During your master's dissertation, were you able to take steps yourself to promote environmentally friendly practices or minimise negative impact? In what ways would you place the research you conducted within your master's dissertation within a broader, international context? To whom are the results you formulated in your master's dissertation relevant? How have aspects of sustainability, international context and ethics that you encountered during your master's dissertation changed your view of this research discipline? Can it be ethically justified that research such as you conducted within your master's dissertation would be rolled out widely?
Feedback and self-reflection	Feedback In retrospect Own solutions Strengths Challenges Motivation Lessons	In what ways did you incorporate feedback from your supervisors and fellow students into your master's thesis? In retrospect, what would you have done differently and thus take away as lessons for the future? Within your master's dissertation, did you feel reluctance to propose your own solutions and, if so, how did you deal with this? What do you experience as the strengths of your master's thesis dissertation What were the biggest challenges or obstacles you encountered during your research and what did you learn from them? How did your commitment and motivation evolve throughout the master's dissertation process and what factors influenced this? Based on your experiences with feedback, communication, collaboration and general work attitude during the master's dissertation, what lessons will you take with you into the future?
Integrity and ethics	Aspects Use of AI Added value of AI Justified AI	In what ways did scientific integrity and ethical conduct manifest themselves within the context of your master's dissertation? In what ways did you use AI tools when writing your master's dissertation Where did AI tools add value within your master's dissertation - or could they have added value? In what ways was your use of AI tools justified?

Legend

Themes on a grey background may be covered on the exam but it is not necessary (unlike the others)