UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
GENEVA SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

PREAMBLE

According to the Study plan and the '**Applications Directives**', the Master in Statistics includes a Master Thesis. This document provides guidelines about the content of the Master Thesis Project, the content of the Master Thesis as well as the oral defense.

With regard to prerequisite, deadline, registration, evaluation and retake procedure, please consult the '**Application Directives**', available on GSEM website.

MASTER THESIS PROJECT

The project (max 4 pages, including the bibliography) should be composed of:

- A statement in the form of the thesis' title

- The student's name and the date of the project's presentation

- A short text presenting the subject

- The methodology

- References to literature sources

- A short job description and the internship convention duly completed and signed by the supervisor if the project is linked to an internship

MASTER THESIS

A Master Thesis is an academic work that represents the culmination of Master's degree studies. A Master Thesis demonstrates the academic maturity of the student, and specifically that (s)he is able to independently design and implement a small-scale academic research project. In the Master Thesis, the student must also demonstrate sufficient depth and understanding of academic knowledge pertaining to the domain of her studies.

A Master Thesis being, in essence, a demonstration of academic maturity, several corresponding criteria follow. The Master's candidate must demonstrate sufficient command of basic academic research activities. This including (1) the ability to review and summarize the relevant literature (including an ability to discern which literature is relevant and which is not); (2) the ability to identify and sufficiently describe a research problem that is relevant, topical and approachable; (3) the ability to design a research project (simulation study, empirical data analysis); (4) the ability to choose and/or develop and apply and/or implement appropriate statistical methods; (5) the ability to perform simulations studies to test the statistical method(s); (6) the ability to analyze empirical data and draw appropriate and reasonable conclusions and recommendations.

Accordingly, all Master Thesis should include the following elements:

1. definition of the research problem and literature review of the relevant papers/books on the topic
2. development of new statistical methodology (when relevant)
3. description, comparison and choice(s) of statistical methods
4. simulation study (when appropriate)
5. empirical data analysis (when appropriate)
6. conclusion with discussion of findings and recommendations for further research

There is no fundamental difference between a Master Thesis done in conjunction with an internship or without. It is however likely that a Master Thesis done in conjunction with an internship will put

more emphasis on the empirical data analysis and focus on a particular problem in a specific field or research.

There is no established criterion for the extent of a Master Thesis in terms of page numbers. What is critical is the content, not the extent.

The thesis should appropriately cite all the articles, books, and internet sources (e.g., texts downloaded from the internet, program codes and syntaxes obtained from the internet) from which information has been drawn. Direct quotations of received sources can be used, but Master Thesis must be clearly marked as quotations. Chained referencing of sources should be avoided (i.e., if a source article references another article, the candidate should find the original source and use this as reference). The input and help obtained from other persons and organizations should be acknowledged in a preface. The thesis should be honest about its own contributions and limitations. Ideas received from others should be appropriately acknowledged. No confidential information should be published without express consent by the source.

DEFENSE

Once the work completed, and in agreement with the Master Thesis director, the student should organize the Master Thesis defense, notably by setting a date.

Once a date is set and at least ten days before the defense, the student should communicate the following information by email (gsem-statistics@unige.ch), to the program coordinator:

- Name and student registration number
- The title of the Master Thesis
- Proposal for the date and time of the defense
- The name and affiliation of the Master Thesis director and the internship supervisor (if the Master Thesis is linked to an internship)
- The name and affiliation of the jury member(s) (chosen in agreement with the Master Thesis director).

A final version of the Master Thesis (in .pdf format) is to be sent to the program coordinator (gsem-statistics@unige.ch)

QUESTIONS

All questions can be sent to **gsem-statistics@unige.ch**