

Dear Msc Thesis student and advisor(s),

The kickoff meeting for the MSc thesis was organized for redirecting, tuning and restricting the topic and for engaging the participants to the present thesis project (assumed to last about six months).

The information package below has been collected to address (a) some fundamentals and (b) some practicalities from the perspective of our university and the professorship of Computational Structural Engineering.

### **Guidelines for Master's Theses**

An official document from Aalto University School of Engineering (Aalto ENG) about MSc Theses (including the official assessment criteria and form as an appendix) has been attached to the present message.

The following guidance is worth pointing out:

1. Since the final result will be an academic thesis, formalities are more important than in a technical report and a literature review (with an emphasis on scientific literature not on other MSc Theses) is a crucial part of the work.
2. The following table of contents serves as a good starting point for any thesis: 1. Introduction, 2. Theories, 3. Methods, 4. Applications, 5. Results, 6. Discussion and Conclusions. Chapters 1—3 are based on literature, whereas 4—6 form the application part relying on and linking to 1—3. Sometimes, 2 and 3 or 4 and 5 are combined.
3. A reasonable target for the number of pages is 50 (which typically gets exceeded, however). Anyway, one should not report everything learned during the process in the final version of the thesis: systematic compressing is an important part of academic, or any, writing.

### **Advice and supervision**

For an official acceptance for the topic agreed in the kickoff meeting (from the academic body of Aalto ENG via the administrative eAge-system), an e-mail reply of the supervisor attached to the application can be used as a confirmation.

During the process, submitting one intermediate version (including a preliminary table of contents plus one or two example chapters) and the final version of the thesis (which has already taken into account the feedback from advisors) has normally been enough for the supervisor. Advisors should be consulted more often: once or twice a month at least.

### **Grading and graduation**

For the guidance of Master's Program in Building Technology, see <https://into.aalto.fi/display/enciv/Completing+your+master%27s+thesis>

The work must be publicly presented in a thesis seminar organized by the program about once a month. The thesis does not need to be finalized, but one should have a permission from the supervisor for the presentation.

Before applying grading, one must have a permission from the supervisor. Before asking for the permission, in turn, (1) advisors' feedback must have been taken into account, (2) a test for plagiarism must have been accomplished, (3) the final version of the thesis must have been submitted for grading to the supervisor (see the MyCourses pages below). The Abstract of the thesis serves as a Maturity Essay.

### **MyCourses-pages of the supervisor**

An intermediate and the final version of the thesis must be submitted via the MyCourses-pages (the folder Thesis versions), including a platform for accomplishing a test for plagiarism (a software called Turnitin): <https://mycourses.aalto.fi/course/view.php?id=30775>

### **Material for the present work**

Some literature:

Example grade-5 theses:

<https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/handle/123456789/35448>  
<https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/handle/123456789/111758>