

Master thesis

15.1.2024

Kirsi Niinimäki

The aim of the thesis

To graduate, students must meet the aims set for the thesis. The aim of the master's thesis is that:

- Students demonstrate command of the field of the master's programme and ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the programme independently;
- Students demonstrate ability for research-oriented work on an artistic, theoretical or applied research topic and demonstrate ability to use data and source material for research purposes;
- Students demonstrate good communication skills in the field of their study.
- The thesis may be a piece of **theoretical, artistic or applied research**, a work of art or a combination of these;
- it may also include a **production component**. The production component may be, depending on the field, for instance, a design, a work of art, an exhibition, or project.
- Theses always include a written component

Collaboration

- The thesis may also be done on commission for a company or other organization.
- It must however be borne in mind, that the thesis is primarily a piece of academic work and evaluated against academic criteria.
- Approved theses are public documents. Theses cannot contain any confidential information.

Master thesis

- Thesis forms: Creative process, design process, research
- Theoretical part + design part are connected

More instructions

- <https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/masters-programme-in-design/thesis>

Evaluation

Evaluation

- **Choice of topic and of the artistic and/or scientific goals for thesis:**
Relevance of the topic for the field. Definition of topic. Setting of artistic and/or scientific goals for thesis
- The topic is demanding. The definition of the scope demonstrates in-depth understanding of the topic. The student evaluates the choice of the scientific and/or artistic goals of the thesis.

- **Command of topic and use of sources.**
- The thesis demonstrates the student's in-depth knowledge of the topic and its context or theoretical framework as well as of the previous research.
- Finnish and international sources are used extensively.
- The sources are critically evaluated and their choice and weighting supports the discussion of the topic excellently.

- **Discussion of the topic, conclusions and interpretation.** Choice of methods and techniques for analytical and research-oriented work. Ability to draw conclusions and think independently. Conceptualisation of the topic and linking it to a broader context. Evaluation of thesis reliability.
- The student applies and critically evaluates the selected methods or techniques. The student examines the topic analytically and critically and understands the complexity of the phenomenon.
- The student draws significant conclusions which inspire future research, design or artistic activity, or, in an artistic work, evaluates their thinking in relation to the topic discussed.
- The student conceptualises the results and discusses their relation to a broader context.
- The student evaluates the reliability of the thesis critically and comprehensively

- **Quality of the artistic component.** Idea and execution of the production component. Artistic thinking or design vision. Understanding the broader context of the work. Documentation of the production
- The production component execution is excellent and supports the idea of the thesis insightfully.
- The student demonstrates excellent ability for lateral artistic thinking or design vision.
- The student demonstrates in depth command of the conventions of the field and/or challenges them successfully.

- **Description and analysis of the process.**
- The student evaluates the working process and/or the choices made in depth.

- **Quality of thesis language and presentation**
- The solutions applied to the presentation of the thesis components are commendable and support the discussion of the topic excellently.
- The written expression supports the discussion of the topic and the understanding of the contents excellently.
- The text has no errors

- **Knowledge and professional skills**

- The student demonstrates significant artistic vision, professionalism, critical research- oriented thinking and an excellent ability to apply the gained knowledge to discussing issues of the field.
- The student demonstrates excellent ability to plan and conduct their work independently in the field of studies.

- **Overall impression.** Overall description of thesis. Connection between the thesis components
- The thesis has particular merits as a whole and in almost all areas.
- The thesis components form an integrated whole and support each other excellently.
- The student justifies and evaluates their solutions regarding the thesis components.

GROUP TASK

- **Thesis reading guideline:**

- Select one MA thesis from the list provided below or any other Masters' thesis of your choice by searching on <https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/>.
- Once you have formed your group, divide up the thesis into parts among your group members. You must answer the following questions when reading the thesis:
 - Student's name, thesis name
 - What is the approach in this thesis, can you find a clear research question?
 - How is the context of the work been constructed (how has the student positioned their work)?
 - What is the theoretical background in this work (what theories, literature has been used in this work)?
 - What is the methodology used to carry out the research (identify what method(s) was used)?
 - What kind of structure the student has been constructing to the work (content list)?
 - What kind of results/conclusions/discussion you can find from the work?
 - Summarize your finding in 2-3 power point slides. Be ready to share your findings with the rest of the class in an informal presentation on 5.2.2024.

-
- Anja Lisa Hirscher (CS) (2013) Joyful participation in new ways of designing and making clothes. - Enabling person-product attachment to potentially reduce unnecessary consumption. (Participatory design)
- Julia Montin (2020) Made In Shanghai - A European's interpretation on Chinese fashion heritage (Ethnography + autoethnography)
- Ida Sofia Tuomisto (2019) Being natural is simply a pose” – a critical intervention into conventionality of clothes through the process of experimental fashion design (Authoethnography)
- Heta Vajavaara (2018) Life of Garments (Authoethnography) In library
- Hanne Jurmu. (2019) Tämä ei voi jatkua näin; muodista kohti esitystaidetta (Authoethnography) In library
- Antonina Sedakova (2019) Fashion identity under socialism. Fashion as a creative expression of “conformist” and “oppositional” identity in the condition of the suppressive society in the Soviet Russia during the era of "Perestroika" (Ethnography +Authoethnography)
- Kim Donghan. (2016) Wear the road: The role of clothing in promoting women’s transport cycling in motor-dominated societies. (Ethnography)
- Anna Poikonen (2022) Comfort clothes – The emotional and cultural value of slow fashion (Speculative design)
- Kasia Gorniak. (2017) Talking through our bodies: Draping with a moving subject as a fashion design process (Authoethnography)

- Kunawong Praejeen (2022) Optimizing the colors of naturally dyed yarns from food by-products by weaving practice (Autoethnography, design process)
- Leonardo Hidalgo (2020) Geographies of memory and nostalgia (Autoethnography)
- Tiina Paavilainen (2015) Floating and clipping – Woven textiles with weft floats and finishings by clipping, (Design project, commercial)
- Pirita Lauri (2017) Extract – Concept for a coordinated print collection for mass customization (Design process, speculative)
- Terhi Laine (2018) Kuljen rinnallasi -kirkkotekstiilikokoelma Uuden lastensairaalan kappeliin (Design process)
- Petra Haikonen (2016) Woven sounds / Design exploration and experimentation of acoustic curtain fabrics (Autoethnography in a commercial context)
- Helmi Liikanen (2019) Ranta - Embodied thinking in the hand-weaving process (Autoethnography)

Master thesis done in connection so some research projects

- Hanna Scoones (CS) (2023) Fashion design for disability: examining past and present practice to enable designers and brands to improve access to inclusive everyday wear. (historical analysis + interviews)
- Riikka Piippo. (2020) Quality over quantity – connecting quality and lifespan of garment (interviews)
- Rinna Saramäki (CS) (2021) Communicating clothing quality (survey + participatory)
- Eugenia Smirnova. (2017) Colours in a circular economy. (laboratory experimentations + speculative approach in conceptual design)
- Essi Karell. (2014) Planned continuity: Design of sustainable clothing service concept (focus group study and speculative design experimentation)

If the MA thesis is not in Aaltodoc

- <https://www.aalto.fi/en/news/aalto-thesis-database-now-available-from-outside-the-learning-centre>
- <https://libguides.aalto.fi/c.php?g=653791&p=5163510>

Next

- Form a group and inform students' names to Emmi Pouta
- Discuss master thesis options; what kind of work you want to analyze
- Divide responsibilities
- More support for analyzing MA thesis you can find from the MA thesis guidelines, especially the grading matrix in there
- Start actions