Master Thesis
The course and its exam are linked to a variety of general rules. For information about these rules, please read the Master of MSc in Anthropology, 2012.

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<tr>
<th>Course content</th>
<th>The thesis is written on the basis of empirical data collated by the student during their fieldwork.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Description of aims</td>
<td>The thesis should be written in a clear language, be lucidly argued and exhibit that the student is capable of:</td>
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<td>• formulating and exploring an anthropological research problem statement informed by relevant regional, methodological and theoretical knowledge</td>
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<td>• reflecting critically upon the empirical material collated and analysing it in relation to the fieldwork's conditions and the methods employed</td>
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<td>• evaluating empirical material and theories in relation to one another and relating constructively and critically to both</td>
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<td>• making general conclusions on the basis of his/her own work and relevant regional, thematic and theoretical literature</td>
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<td>• communicating and arguing in an academically valid and authoritative manner.</td>
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<td>Students must also fulfil the Department of Anthropology's form and language requirements (see the curriculum 4.3.2 for more about form and language requirements).</td>
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| Credits | 30 ECTS |
| Syllabus | None |
| Numbers of hours in class | 6 meetings with a supervisor of approx. 60 minutes per Thesis. Students are also entitled to limited supervisor guidance in connection with drawing up the obligatory thesis contract in preparation for writing the thesis. This contact will often be in form of mail or shorter talks and will correspond to approx. 20 minutes. The supervision can be either individual supervision or individual supervision in groups. Supervision in groups consists of students assigned to the same supervisor, typically 2 to 3 students. The students will usually have a common thematic or theoretical interest in their projects. The basic idea is that the students receive individual supervision in turns, and that the other students will learn from listening to comments that relate to fellow students' work. It is still possible for students to receive individual supervision without being in a supervision group, if students or teachers so prefers. However |
individual supervision without a supervision group can mean that you will not get the supervisor for whom you have applied.

Thesis Seminars

**Examination**

Written thesis with subsequent oral defence. The grade will be based on an overall evaluation of the written paper and the oral defence.

A thesis may be written in several different ways, for example using one of the models listed below. Students wishing to use a different model than those listed below for writing their thesis will need to apply for special dispensation to do so.

The thesis can be written individually or in groups. Read more about the rules for group examinations in the Curriculum 4.3.1.

The Thesis must be handed in both on paper and electronically.

**Abstract**

In conjunction with submission of the thesis, students must also submit an abstract of the contents of their thesis in English. See also the Curriculum, 4.4 for guidelines on the choice of language for the thesis and abstract. The abstract will be considered in the thesis’ overall assessment. **Length of Abstract:** 8,000 keystrokes.

**Oral examination:**

The oral defence of the thesis will take place after the written thesis has been submitted and is structured as a dialogue between the examinee, the internal assessor and the external examiner. The student begins the defence with an introduction of five to ten minutes. The subsequent dialogue is based on the examined thesis and will include a general anthropological discussion. **Length of oral examination:** 45 minutes. For group defences, each member of the group will take a 45-minute individual oral examination.

**Model 1:**

A thesis, 200,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % (plus 60,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % per extra group member), with the following main components:

a) An introduction giving an account of the theory and methods employed, outlining the anthropological/academic background for the study, its social context, etc.

b) Three to five narrative modules in which the empirical material is analyzed with respect to the selected theories and relevant contexts.
The narrative modules may be written either as integrated parts of an overarching argument or as separate articles.

c) A conclusion.

Model 2:
A thesis, 200,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % (plus 60,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % per extra group member), with the following main components:

a) An introduction

b) Two articles. The articles must be targeted for specific scientific journals. Students must enclose guidelines for the chosen journals.

c) A minor communication product, such as a lead article in a newspaper or a lecture. The product is to be supplemented by a brief outline of the target group and choice of communication format.

d) A paper on methods and ethics, giving an account of the methodology chosen and/or an ethical problem that is especially significant for the fieldwork and the project.

Model 3:
A thesis, 117,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % (plus 35,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % per extra group member), with the following main components:

a) An introduction

b) A major communication product, such as a documentary film or multimedia production with a discussion paper or a major exhibition with a catalogue. This product is not included in the max. 117,000 keystrokes. The product is to be supplemented with a brief introduction, in which the choice of communication format is justified.

c) A paper, in which the issue being addressed by the communication product is supplemented by a thematic, theoretical discussion and contextualisation.

d) A paper on methods and ethics, giving an account of the choice and methods employed and the data gathered. This paper must also include reflections on positioning in the field and ethical problems.

Model 4:
A thesis, 200,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % (plus 60,000 keystrokes +/- 10 % per extra group member), with the following main components:

a) An introduction

b) A consultancy report, analysing the empirical data on the basis of project-oriented work (internship). This report is to be supplemented by a brief introduction, in which the form of communication and the format defining the consultancy report is justified.

c) A paper, in which a theme or challenge relevant to the project-oriented work (internship) is analyzed using relevant theory.
d) A paper on the project-oriented work (internship), giving an account of project related tasks and the use of anthropological competencies therein, including the methods employed. The paper is also to include reflections on positioning in the field and ethical problems.

**Model 4+4: Only for students enrolled at 4+4 PhD programme**
The master thesis is written based on data collated during the master fieldwork. The purpose of the master thesis is both to conclude the master programme, to demonstrate the student’s progression towards a PhD and to prepare the final PhD thesis.

- An introduction giving an account of the theory and methods employed, outlining the anthropological/academic background for the study, its social context, etc. (approx. 30,000 keystrokes).
- A communicative article (approx. 15,000-20,000 keystrokes or the number of keystrokes required for the scientific journal for which the article is intended).
- An article giving an independent analysis of selected empirical material (approx. 35,000-50,000 keystrokes or the number of keystrokes required for the scientific journal for which the article is intended).
- A synopsis for the rest of the PhD project (approx. 10,000-12,000 keystrokes)

The thesis will be evaluated based on the aims for the course (*see description of aims*).

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<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>The 7-point scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>External (thesis supervisor and external examiner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the examination</td>
<td>Students must sign a thesis contract in order to begin the thesis writing process. The thesis must be submitted no later than six months after the approval of the thesis contract. If this deadline is not met, it will be counted as an examination attempt (see the Curriculum 4.4.1 for further details).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-examination</td>
<td>See under Thesis Contract below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special requirements</td>
<td>The thesis concludes the MSc programme. All other courses must be passed before the thesis can be submitted.</td>
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**Thesis contract**
The Head of Studies must approve the student's choice of topic for the Master's Thesis and set a deadline for its submission, according to the Executive Order on Study Programmes, §21, section 5–6.

The thesis topic will be approved and the submission deadline specified in the thesis contract,
which is drawn up by the student under the guidance of his/her thesis supervisor at the end of the MSc programme’s third semester. The thesis contract can only be submitted at the stipulated periods each semester: the dates can be found on the department’s homepage. The Board of studies can give students dispensation to submit their thesis contract at other times, should extraordinary and relevant circumstances abide.

The thesis contract must be accompanied by a summary, which provides information about the thesis topic, method and contents of the thesis, and the problem statement, including a time schedule for finishing the thesis. A guide for writing this summary can be found in the thesis contract.

The Head of Studies must approve the contract consisting of the above mentioned summary and time schedule. The student has six months in which to complete his or her thesis from the submission of the thesis contract. If the thesis contract is not approved, the student must submit a revised thesis contract at the latest one week after receiving the rejection.

Failure to submit the thesis by the deadline stipulated in the above described contract, will count as an examination attempt. The student is entitled to a second attempt, for which a new thesis contract with a new problem statement, must be drafted within the previously stipulated thesis topic. The new thesis contract must be submitted, at the latest, fourteen days after the original thesis submission deadline. If the deadline is surpassed, the additional time the student uses to rewrite the thesis contract will be subtracted from the bellow mentioned three months. Once the new thesis contract is approved, a new submission deadline is assigned, which will be three months after the approval of the thesis contract. If the student does not deliver the thesis within this deadline, a third attempt may be granted, according to the Executive Order on Examinations, according to the same rules that stipulated the second attempt. Once a deadline has been set for submission, the student cannot withdraw, according to the Executive Order on Examinations and later amendments, §27, section 3. The Board of Studies may grant exemptions to the rules for deadlines for thesis submissions.

For further information about the supervisor agreement, annulment etc., please refer to the general guidelines in the thesis contract.