

## Practical Master Thesis : Guidelines

The thesis written as part of the “*Mémoire de Master et colloque de recherche*” course may be a practical thesis. In this case, the thesis is written in conjunction with an internship chosen by the student, with the agreement of the thesis supervisor.

The internship must enable the student to:

- apply the theoretical knowledge acquired during their philosophical education (as part of a teaching assignment or through editorial activities, for example)
- apply transferable skills (analytical and synthetic thinking, critical thinking, problem solving, clarity of expression).

The internship can be with a public institution (municipality, canton, Swiss state), a private company or an association (NGO, association, etc.). In principle, it lasts between 3 and 6 months. The internship is proposed by the student to the thesis supervisor, who evaluates the project before approving or rejecting it.

In addition to the internship, the student writes a practical thesis and submits it to the thesis supervisor. This thesis takes the form of a text of approximately 10,000 words, including notes and references. It contains the following elements:

- Introduction
- Presentation and description of the institution and of the internship’s context
- Description and analysis of the student’s role in the institution
- Discussion of the relevance of the student’s philosophical education to this internship.
- Reflection on the skills and experience acquired by the student during the placement.
- Conclusion

Close attention should be paid to the editorial and typographical guidelines in force at the institute (see [the relevant document](#)). The form “*Déclaration sur l’honneur*” must be duly completed by all students writing a master’s thesis and must accompany the thesis submitted.

The dissertation is defended orally before a panel of two members, including the thesis supervisor. The session lasts 45 minutes, including a 15-minute presentation of the thesis by the student and 30 minutes of questions and comments from the jury. The defense is public and may take place outside examination sessions.

The mark is awarded at the end of the defense after deliberation by the members of the jury. A mark of less than 4 corresponds to a rejection of the thesis. This means that the thesis has to be rewritten and defended again, although the student need not find a new internship. The student is entitled to two attempts. The grade for the module is the grade given following the



defense. It takes into account all the work done for the thesis and the defense. For legal aspects, all relevant documents can be consulted on the [Legal Affairs](#) website.

After the defense, a clean paper copy of the thesis must be given to the Faculty library or sent by post. In addition to this paper copy, an electronic version of the thesis must be sent by email to [biblio.lettres@unine.ch](mailto:biblio.lettres@unine.ch) and [secretariat.philosophie@unine.ch](mailto:secretariat.philosophie@unine.ch).

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