

To the commissioner of a Master's thesis

Thank you for your valuable contribution to our student's Master's thesis project.

Master's theses completed in collaboration with a business enterprise or another party external to the university always aim to meet the objectives set by the collaborating partner as well as the objectives for an academic final thesis. To let you know what to expect of the project, this letter introduces you to the special features of a Master's thesis.

Objective of the thesis	A Master's thesis is the final project at the end of Master's studies. It enables students to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired during their Master's studies to carry out a specifically delimited assignment. A collaborative Master's thesis project can help the employer to carry out a clearly defined assignment, such as the definition or solution of a problem or the preparation of a development plan.
Topic of the thesis	The employer's wishes and objectives are a starting point in the definition of the thesis topic, but the definition is finalised by the employer, student and academic thesis supervisor together.
Contents of the thesis	In addition to a practical section that serves the purposes of the employer, a Master's thesis always includes a theoretical section examining the phenomenon. A Master's thesis is not equivalent to a report by a professional consultant.
Scope and schedule of the thesis	A Master's thesis requires roughly six months of full-time work. The work may start as agreed between the employer and student as long as the student fulfils the academic requirements for the thesis and has a thesis supervisor at the university.
Publicity of the thesis	Master's theses are public-access documents. In other words, the university publishes all approved Master's theses. In certain exceptional cases, a Master's thesis may be kept confidential for two years of its approval. Nevertheless, the employer and student must even in these cases see to it that the version of the thesis submitted for evaluation includes no business secrets or other sensitive material.
Student's supervision and fee	The employer must assign a person to support the student's thesis work. In addition, the university appoints an academic thesis supervisor to the student. The employer company normally pays the student a fee for the Master's thesis work. The student's compensation may also be a scholarship from the LUT Research Foundation, but in such cases, the company has no official supervisory role in the thesis work.

For more information on the Master's thesis project, please contact the academic supervisor of the thesis.

Jaana Sandström, Vice Rector