



## **Bio 514: Instructions about "Master Thesis"**

The written Master thesis formally complies with the common standards of scientific publications. The student hands in the final version of his/her Master thesis to the office for 'Studienkoordination' on the date fixed in the Learning Agreement.

Additional copies are given to the Master thesis supervisor and MSc coordinator for evaluation. The supervisor communicates his/her a suggestion for a grade to the MSc coordinator. The coordinator has the right to modify the suggested grade, and can ask for revisions of the Master thesis if formal standards are insufficient.

In general, the following six criteria (A.1-3, B.1-3) are used for grading BIO 514:

### **A. Thesis: Overall style, presentation, logic, language, completeness**

#### A.1 Introduction:

- Overview of the research field relevant to the Master thesis. Focus on explaining the significance of the Master thesis research within the field.
- Description of the problem addressed in the thesis, and explanation of the project goals.

#### A.2 Results and Methods:

- Description of the logic and hypotheses underlying the choice of performed experiments.
- Presentation and interpretation of the experimental results.
- Description of the methods with sufficient details, such that experiments can be reproduced by others.



### A.3 Discussion and Conclusions:

- Discussion of the results with respect to the original goals.
- Discussion of the results in a more general context within the research field.
- Formulation of new hypotheses, and outlook for future work.

Note that the supervisor recommends a grade for the thesis based on the text, which is considered to be the final version by the student before corrections from the supervisor. The student is allowed to correct his/her Master thesis based on comments from the supervisor or other experienced scientists. In fact, this is encouraged, and an important element of learning and teaching of the MSc program.

## **B. Practical work in the laboratory: attitude, motivation, input, independence**

### B.1 Lab work:

- Quality and conclusiveness of experimental work
- Independent organization of experimental procedures
- Solid understanding of the theory behind experimental techniques
- Detailed and traceable documentation of the experimental work in the lab note book

### B.2 Experimental design:

- Independent design and interpretation of experiments
- Understanding of the purpose, possibilities and limitations of the applied experimental techniques

### B.3 Communication:



- Communicative attitude in the laboratory
- Ability to ask for and make constructive use of advice
- Initiation of and contribution to scientific discussions
- Presentation of the project and results in group meetings and Master thesis defence