Information Sheet on the Master's Thesis

The Master’s thesis consists of a written paper by the candidate. It demonstrates that the candidate is able to process a problem within a prescribed period of time according to scientific methods on his/her own under supervision.

Topic
Proposals for topics are generally handed out by the Institute. Two approaches are possible here:
(1) The candidate directly contacts an assistant of the department chair.
(2) The candidate contacts Arne Spelter (aspelter@imb.rwth-aachen.de) specifying his/her field of interest and the planned processing period. In exceptional cases, the Master's thesis can be drafted outside of the faculty or outside of RWTH Aachen University with the agreement of the Examination Office. The candidate has the opportunity to submit proposals for the topic.

Change of topics
The topic can be returned only once and only within the first month of the processing time.

Scope
The scope of the written paper without annex should not exceed 80 pages.

Language
In agreement with the examiner, the Master’s thesis can be written optionally in German or in English.

Period
The processing period for the Master’s thesis is usually six months. In coordination with the thesis adviser and the speciality adviser, the thesis can also be worked on in part time within a period of 12 months. An application for this must be submitted to and approved by the Examination Office.

Extension
As an exception the Central Examination Office can extend the processing period by up to six weeks in the individual case upon a reasoned application by the candidate and on approval by the thesis adviser.

Repetition
The Master’s thesis can be repeated once. Returning the Master’s thesis topic is only permitted once, but only when the candidate has not used this option before.

Grade
The grade has to be announced at the latest eight weeks after the hand-in date.

Evaluation
The examiner is the person who has provided the topic. The thesis is evaluated by two examiners in all cases providing written reasons. The grade of the thesis is comprised of the arithmetic average of the individual grades, insofar as the difference is not higher than 2.0. If the difference is less than 2.0 or if an evaluation determines that the thesis is “inadequate” while the other evaluates it as “adequate” or better, a third examiner will be appointed by the Institute of the Examination Office to evaluate the Master's thesis and who will make a final decision on the grade within the range of the previous grades in a period of four weeks.
Scheduling the submission colloquium
10-12 weeks before submission, the candidate will report to Arne Spelter. The colloquium can only be held after submission. A three to four-week period should be suggested for scheduling a date during which the adviser is also attending. As soon as a date has been scheduled, it will be notified to the adviser. If the adviser cannot attend on that date, the candidate should contact Arne Spelter immediately.

Construction Engineering MPO 2011 [Master’s Exam Rules 2011]
Conditions
44 CP/ 74 CP (processing in part time/processing in full time)
Work effort
23 CP / 1 CP (written paper/submission colloquium)

Submission
The Master's thesis must be submitted in two copies to the ZPA (Central Examination Office) before expiration of the deadline. The submission date must be noted on the record. If the Master's thesis is not delivered on time, it will be graded as "inadequate" (5.0). The thesis will only be evaluated if the candidate is matriculated in the academic program at the time of submission.
Two copies can be printed out in the department office.

Industrial Engineering MPO 2011 [Master’s Exam Rules 2011]
Conditions
50 CP/ 80 CP (processing in part time/processing in full time)
Work effort
27 CP / 3 CP (written draft/submission colloquium)

Submission
The Master's thesis must be submitted to the ZPA (Central Examination Office) before expiration of the deadline. The form and number of copies of the thesis will be determined by the Institute, whereas at least one hardcopy must be submitted. The submission date must be noted on the record. The colloquium will be held before or at the latest 6 weeks following submission of the written paper (insofar as registration was on time). The examiner defines more details before registration of the Master's thesis. If the Master's thesis is not delivered on time, it will be graded as “inadequate” (5.0). The thesis will only be evaluated if the candidate is matriculated in the academic program at the time of submission.
Two copies can be printed out in the department office.

Contact
Arne Spelter M.Sc.
RWTH Aachen
Institut für Massivbau [Institute of Structural Concrete] (IMB)
Building 2130 / Room 608
Mies-van-der-Rohe-Str. 1
52074 Aachen / Germany
Tel.:+49(0)241-8025172
Fax:+49(0)241-8022335
Email: aspelter@imb.rwth-aachen.de
Web: http://www.imb.rwth-aachen.de