Descriptions of grades for master's theses in mathematics, natural sciences and technology

The grading of master's theses in mathematics, natural sciences and technology is governed by the following descriptions of grades for students admitted to master's studies in the autumn semester 2012 or later.

Each description covers these areas: general comments; theoretical overview, insight and choice of methods; manner of completion – level, technical skills; extent, research and development; presentation.

Grade / level	Description
A Excellent	• An outstanding thesis which clearly demonstrates a talent for research and/or originality, in a national perspective. • The candidate has very good insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field and has demonstrated scientific knowledge at a very high level. The objectives of the thesis are well defined and easy to understand. • The candidate is able to select and apply relevant scientific methods convincingly, has all the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct very advanced experiments or computations without help, and works very independently. • The thesis is considered very extensive and/or innovative. The analysis and discussion have an extremely good scientific foundation and justification, and are clearly linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates extremely good critical reflection and distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The form, structure and language in the thesis are at an extremely high level.

B Very good	- A very good thesis that is clearly and positively distinguishable. - The candidate has very good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are well defined and easy to understand. - The candidate is able to select and apply relevant scientific methods soundly, has almost all the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct advanced experiments or computations without help, and works very independently. - The thesis is considered extensive and/or innovative. The analysis and discussion have a very good scientific foundation and justification, and are clearly linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates very good critical reflection and distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. - The form, structure and language in the thesis are at a very high level.
C Good	- A good thesis. - The candidate has good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are generally well defined, but may contain some inexact formulations. - The candidate uses the relevant scientific methods satisfactorily, has most of the technical skills required for the work, can plan and conduct quite advanced experiments or computations without help, and works independently. - The thesis is considered good with elements that are creative. The analysis and discussion have a good scientific foundation and justification, and are linked to the topic that is addressed. The candidate demonstrates good critical reflection and usually distinguishes clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. - The form, structure and language in the thesis are at a good level.

D Satisfactory	• A satisfactory thesis. • The candidate has quite good scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are defined, but may contain some inexact formulations. • The candidate is generally able to apply relevant scientific methods, has the main technical skills required for the work, and can plan and conduct experiments or computations without help. The candidate works independently to some extent, but needs quite close supervision to achieve satisfactory scientific progress. The candidate may have problems utilizing the research group's expertise in his/her own work. • The thesis is considered satisfactory. The analysis and discussion have a satisfactory scientific foundation and justification, and are linked to the topic that is addressed, but there is room for improvement. The candidate demonstrates his/her ability for critical reflection, but has problems distinguishing clearly between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The form, structure and language in the thesis are at an acceptable level.
E Sufficient	• A thesis that is acceptable and satisfies the minimum criteria. • The candidate has sufficient scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are described, but are vague and imprecise. • The candidate is able to apply some relevant scientific methods, has a minimum of technical skills required for the work, and can plan and conduct simple experiments or computations without help. The candidate achieves limited scientific progress without close supervision, and has problems utilizing the research group's expertise in his/her own work. • The thesis is considered limited and somewhat fragmented. The analysis and discussion have an adequate scientific foundation and justification, but ought to have had a better link to the topic that is discussed. The candidate demonstrates sufficient critical reflection, but may have problems distinguishing between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. • The thesis is mostly acceptable, but has definite shortcomings with respect to form, structure and language.

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F Fail	- A thesis that does not satisfy the minimum requirements. - The candidate does not have sufficient scientific knowledge and insight into the scientific theory and methods in his/her field. The objectives of the thesis are not clearly defined or are lacking. - The candidate demonstrates a lack of competence in the use of scientific methods, does not have the required technical skills and independence for the work, and has scarcely utilized the research group's expertise in his/her own work. - The thesis is considered very limited and fragmented. The analysis and discussion do not have an adequate scientific foundation and justification, and are loosely linked to the topic that is discussed. The candidate does not demonstrate sufficient critical reflection, and does not clearly distinguish between his/her contributions and the contributions from others. - The thesis has major shortcomings with respect to form, structure, and language.

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