# MA thesis writing guidelines

The MA thesis (dissertation) is the most important component of a research degree. MA thesis is a structured, 60 000 to 120 000 characters-long (with spaces), It is preceded by writing the MA research proposal in the first year of MA studies course work.

In this programme students have to choose between two formats of MA Thesis:

* an academic MA Thesis in the form of research paper of publishable quality;
* an applied MA Thesis in the form of a project developed to a stage suitable for practical use by a museum, the media, a tourist firm, an NGO or another professional user.

In either of these two formats, the MA thesis should be a work of independent research demonstrating the student’s ability to:

* formulate a problem or research question,
* undertake and complete a piece of independent research and analysis,
* collect, analyze and interpret historical sources ,
* adequately use the methodology or theoretical framework relevant to the research question and historical sources ,
* demonstrate knowledge of the historiography and other analytical traditions relevant for the chosen subject,
* produce an academic text with appropriate structure and idiomatic use of language,
* discuss coherently the outcome of the research, its relevance for the public, possible implications and applications for non-academic spheres (where applicable).

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the thesis meets the standards described above, and the duty of the supervisor and department to ensure that the student takes the necessary steps to meet these requirements. In case a thesis fails to meet the requirements, it may be returned to the author for revision and resubmission, or a failing grade can be awarded.