

Writing a MSc Thesis at the Cognition Lab

1. Getting started

Current topics are posted here:

<https://www.psychologie.uzh.ch/de/bereiche/nec/allgpsy/lehre/masterarbeiten.html>

If you want to do your thesis on one of these topics, please contact the contact person (“Kontaktperson” = the person who will supervise your thesis).

You can do that already before booking the module. We recommend to book the module in the semester after the first FoKo, and at a time when you are confident that you will be able to finish the thesis in one year or less (you can always submit earlier!).

2. Expectations

The MSc thesis is a substantial piece of scientific work. It should contribute to advancing scientific knowledge about some aspect of human cognition. You will work out a detailed plan for your study together with your supervisor.

Typically, an MSc thesis in the Cognition Lab consists of two small experiments, or one larger empirical study or one small experiment together with some additional substantial work, such as working with a computational model, applying a special, innovative analysis method, or programming the experiment yourself.

Before starting work on your thesis, you should familiarize yourself with the guidelines for using AI:

<https://www.psychologie.uzh.ch/de/studium/bscmsc/studium/KI.html>

4. Writing

You should write your thesis in the style of a scientific article. The most important quality criteria are clarity, precision, and the validity of your arguments - that is, your conclusions should follow from the premises. Succinctness is a virtue: Don't use more words than necessary to convey your message.

Your supervisor will give you feedback on your draft only once, and excluding the Discussion section. Therefore, please prepare a version of your text that is your best version (excluding the Discussion) and send that to your supervisor for feedback. You will receive feedback within 2-3 weeks. Please plan sufficient time to revise your text in light of the feedback (at least 2 weeks).

Regarding formatting, references etc, please follow the guidelines of APA 7:

<https://apastyle.apa.org/>

5. Submission

Submit your thesis as a PDF to your supervisor through email.

You can find a template for the title page here:

<https://www.phil.uzh.ch/ssl-dir/abschlussarbeiten/vorlagen.php>

The official “Examiner” / “Betreuerin/Betreuer” for BSc thesis at the Cognition Lab is always Klaus Oberauer.

In addition to the thesis, you also need to submit all the raw data from your empirical study, and the code for analyzing the data. Speak to your supervisor about how to best do that (e.g., upload on GitHub or OSF)

The **deadline** for submission is June 1st (FS) or December 1st (HS). In case you need an extension (for medical reasons) please contact the exams office at stornierungen@psychologie.uzh.ch

Please add to your submission the declaration of originality (“Selbständigkeitserklärung”); here is a template:

<https://www.phil.uzh.ch/ssl-dir/abschlussarbeiten/vorlagen.php>

Also, please add your declaration on the use of AI, which is included in the guidelines document:

<https://www.psychologie.uzh.ch/de/studium/bscmssc/studium/KI.html>