

Master's Thesis Information Sheet

Background	<p>Students must complete a Master's thesis comprised of 20 ECTS credits at the Faculty of Law in Bern during their Master's degree program.</p> <p><i>Art. 23(1) RSL RW of June 21, 2007 with amendments through May 22, 2014</i></p>
Supervision	<p>All lecturers at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern are authorized to supervise a Master's thesis. It is recommended to contact lecturers well in advance.</p>
Subject Matter	<p>The subject matter of the Master's thesis must analyze an issue from a legal field.</p> <p><i>Art. 23(2) RSL RW of June 21, 2007 with amendments through May 22, 2014</i></p> <p>The topic will be defined directly and jointly with the supervising lecturer.</p> <p>Students who are doing a Master's degree with a special qualification have to write their Master's thesis within the chosen special qualification (or within a foundational module with reference to the special qualification).</p>
Deadlines	<p>The thesis must be submitted within fifteen weeks and is, in general, to be evaluated within two months.</p> <p><i>Art. 23(3) RSL RW of June 21, 2007 with amendments through May 22, 2014</i></p> <p>In the event of illness, students must immediately submit a medical certificate to the supervising lecturer. The lecturer then decides whether an extension of the deadline will be granted.</p>
Grading	<p>The Master's thesis itself must earn a sufficient grade (compensating with the total average grade is not possible); students have a maximum of two attempts to write a successful thesis.</p> <p><i>Art. 23(4) RSL RW of June 21, 2007 with amendments through May 22, 2014</i></p>
Guidelines	<p>Guidelines Master's Thesis of April 30, 2020: https://www.rechtswissenschaft.unibe.ch/unibe/portal/fak_rechtwis/content/e6024/e6025/e35629/e35630/pane35631/e190247/files190248/20_04_30_RL_Masterarbeit_EN_eng.pdf</p> <p>Guidelines Plagiarism University Board of Directors of July 3, 2012: https://www.unibe.ch/unibe/portal/content/e152701/e322683/e325219/e326892/ul_guidelines_plagiarism_ger.pdf</p>

FAQ

Registration in KSL	<p>Do I have to register for the Master's thesis in KSL?</p> <p>No, it is not possible to register for the Master's thesis in KSL. The grade will be recorded after the lecturer has made a grade report to the Dean's Office; it will then appear in the planning view.</p>
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Recognition of a Master's Thesis from Another University	<p>Can a Master's thesis that was written at a law faculty at another university be recognized by the University of Bern Law Faculty?</p> <p>No, the Master's thesis must be written at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern and supervised by a University of Bern Law Faculty lecturer.</p>
Master's Thesis During a Mobility Program	<p>Can I write the Master's thesis while doing a mobility/exchange program?</p> <p>It is possible to write the thesis during the same time period as a mobility/exchange semester. However, your supervisor must be a lecturer at the Faculty of Law in Bern.</p>
Language	<p>Is it possible to write the thesis in a language other than German?</p> <p>As with the examinations, students can write the Master's thesis in German or French. If the lecturer agrees, it is also possible to write the Master's thesis in English or Italian.</p>
Improvement of the Grade	<p>Is it possible to raise the grade I have already received for the Master's thesis?</p> <p>No, students who have received a passing grade, cannot improve that grade. If they have received a failing grade, then the Master's thesis must be written a second time, with a new topic.</p>
Advanced Completion	<p>Can I complete the Master's thesis before starting the Master's program?</p> <p>No, the advanced completion of the Master's thesis is not possible; the Bachelor's degree must be completed beforehand.</p>
Starting Date of the Master's Thesis	<p>When can I write the Master's thesis?</p> <p>It is possible to write the Master's thesis at any time during the Master's degree program, yet, it is usually scheduled towards the end of that program. It is unusual to begin the Master's degree program with the Master's thesis. It is also possible to write the thesis during the semester breaks.</p>
Due Date for the Master's Thesis	<p>The Master's thesis is my last requirement – do I have to be matriculated for the following semester?</p> <p>If the Master's thesis is submitted as the last requirement needed for the degree, it must be submitted on the last day before the new semester starts, otherwise, students must matriculate for the following semester. Of course, students must respect the deadline agreed upon with the lecturer. For questions regarding de-registration, please contact the University-level Admissions Office ("Zulassungsstelle ZIB", University: Admissions Office (ZIB) – University of Bern (unibe.ch), info.zib@unibe.ch)</p>