

YNH-80312

## **BSc Thesis Nutrition and Health**

Whole Academic Year 2019-2020

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### **Course Coordinators**

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## **BSc Thesis Nutrition and Health (YNH-80312)**

<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Credits</b>	12
<b>Period</b>	Whole academic year
<b>Time and venue</b>	8 weeks full time or 16 weeks part-time; own workspace
<b>Exam</b>	Report and final discussion with supervisor/examiner for parts A (research competencies), B (Report) and D (Final Discussion), presentation assessed by YNH-staff for part C
<b>Re-exam</b>	Individually decided in agreement with supervisor
<b>Coordinators of this course guide</b>	Jill van der Mark-Idzinga, Rolf Marteiijn; bvg.mnh@wur.nl
<b>Lecturer(s)</b>	-
<b>Examiner(s)</b>	See study handbook
<b>Secretariat</b>	Programme team Nutrition and Health; Helix room 1039; 0317-482310

## Profile of the course

The BSc thesis comprises a literature study about a subject in the field of one of the chair groups connected to the programme. With the BSc thesis, the student proves to have acquired sufficient knowledge to critically analyse the given subject and to be able to clearly present the findings of the performed study. Students analyse and review literature, generate new insights and report on a question making use of skills and knowledge acquired during their BSc Nutrition and Health. The BSc-thesis is the concluding, individual proof of proficiency test of the BSc Nutrition and Health. It is preferred (but not required) to schedule the BSc-thesis at the end of the BSc, regarding the possible integration of several courses of the BSc programme and being able to attain a certain level of substantive depth.

There is 1 course code for all contributing chair groups: YNH-80312.

Upon finishing the course, the secretariat of the programme team ([bvg.mnh@wur.nl](mailto:bvg.mnh@wur.nl)) will record the grades using the umbrella code.

The supervisor is a scientific staff member of one of the chair groups linked to the programme (codes HNE (all 5), TOX, HAP, CHL, CPT (strategic communication), HMI and CBI). The 'daily supervision' of the thesis can be performed by a PhD student, post-doc or external supervisor, while the final responsibility always lies with the staff member.

## Assumed prerequisite knowledge and required study progress

No specific prerequisite knowledge is defined for this course, as this is covered by the required study progress.

The required study progress as defined in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) implies that the student has to have completed at least 102 ECTS of the CS and RO courses of the BVG programme, including all courses of the BSc-1. Study progress will be checked on behalf of the study advisers after attending the kick off presentation. In case the required study progress is not met, student's licence to start will be withdrawn and the supervisor will be informed.

When starting your BSc thesis, the supervisor assumes you have knowledge and skills including that from all courses from BSc-1 and 2 and having acquired a level of (independent) working and thinking that can be expected at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the BSc.

## Learning outcomes

After successful completion of the BSc-thesis, the student is expected to be able to:

- use knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and mechanisms in their field to answer a research question;
- recognize gaps in his knowledge and to review and acquire knowledge in response (under supervision);
- know how to use, evaluate and interpret common research techniques in the field of nutrition and health;
- write and carry out a (literature) research plan in the field of nutrition and health (under supervision);
- interpret texts, recognize different ways of reasoning and have a critical and constructive attitude with regard to the analysis and resolving of a problem in their field;
- be aware of the societal and ethical aspects of their research and recognize these aspects in concrete situations;
- report the results in the form of an article or scientific report;
- give a proper oral presentation of these results;
- defend these results.

## Course materials and resources

The subject of the thesis will be decided upon in consult with the supervisor. You as a student are supported during the search of the right subject with a Brightspace site that contains subjects and themes with corresponding contact persons.

In collaboration with the WUR Library, the necessary attention has been devoted to the field of literature reviewing (and avoiding plagiarism) during the BSc Nutrition and Health. In addition, these modules are linked to on the Brightspace site.

General tips & tricks and information about scientific writing skills can be found on the Brightspace site. It is recommended to read this information before starting the BSc-thesis.

## Educational activities

Attend a kick-off presentation in the period before you actually start. The kick-off presentation is held in week 7 of period 1, 2, 5, and 6, and in week 4 of period 4. Attending this meeting is mandatory and will be checked.

The BSc thesis, a scientific literature study, is written individually, therefore:

- students choose a subject for their BSc thesis in the field of Nutrition and Health and discuss their approach with their supervisor;
- after that they carry out their literature research. The results of their research are written in the form of a scientific article or scientific report;
- a BSc thesis student conference is organised in week 7 of period 1, 2, 5 and 6, and in week 4 of period 4. Student present their work in English for an audience of peers and staff.
- finally, students present the results of their work to their supervisor.

## Tasks and responsibilities

For the BSc thesis, we here describe who is responsible for which task.

The supervisor/chair group has the final responsibility; different procedures between chair groups cannot and will not lead to rights for the student.

### Course Coordinators

- responsible for the kick-off presentation 5 times a year
- first contact person for procedural questions of staff members
- responsible for a platform (Brightspace site) on which subjects can be displayed
- responsible for the general provision of information to the students
- final check on originality of the thesis
- registration of the grades, archiving of the thesis and the completed assessment form
- organizing the BSc thesis student conference 5 times a year

### Supervisor (scientific staff member of one of the concerned chair groups)

- provides subjects or themes for the BSc thesis for publication on the Brightspace site
- responsible for the supervision, assessment and administrative settlement
- reviews the quality of research questions

### 'Daily' supervisor (AIO, postdoc, external employee, etc. of chair group)

- looks after supervision, evaluation and administrative settlement

- co-reviews the quality of research questions
- advises student at the start of the thesis and in case of content related questions

*NOTE: when the 'daily supervisor' is a scientific staff member, these tasks are also taken up by the scientific staff member.*

Examiner (chair group holder, as mentioned in the study handbook)

- has the final responsibility for both the quality of the BSc theses executed at his/her chair group and the quality of the assessment done by his/her staff members

### **Assessment strategy**

For you as student, the examiner of your BSc-thesis is the chair group holder of the chair groups your daily supervisor works at. When the chair group holder is your supervisor he/she is also the examiner. Usually, the responsibilities are mainly delegated to a scientific staff member that is responsible for the supervision of the student. In addition, this staff member is responsible for passing on the final result and the completed assessment form to the secretariat for registration of the grades.

The thesis is written and evaluated individually. In some case, it is possible that multiple students work together on the same topic. However, even in these cases, every student has to write an own thesis, that is distinguishable from the theses of the other students. For this, the students have to fine tune with each other and in consult with the supervisor (e.g. sub questions of their research clearly have to differ).

### Assessment criteria and weighing

Students are evaluated based on the quality of their investigation and the quality of their report.

The supervisor always has to use the standardized assessment form to assess the BSc thesis.

This form can be found on the Brightspace site and can be requested by the supervisor from the secretariat of the programme team ([bvg.mnh@wur.nl](mailto:bvg.mnh@wur.nl)). The indicated weighting factors of this form are applicable for all BSc theses of our programme and are in line with the requirements of the Programme Committee and Programme Board.

To assist in the assessment, an extended rubric is made available to both the supervisor and student. It is available on the Brightspace site and supervisors can also request it from the secretariat of the programme team ([bvg.mnh@wur.nl](mailto:bvg.mnh@wur.nl)).

Said rubric aids the supervisor in the assessment, but does not limit the rights and responsibilities of the examiner in establishing the grade.

Take into account that postponing delivery of the final thesis in comparison to the planning can have a negative effect on the assessment of the aspect 'time management' and therefore can influence the final grade directly.

It is self-evident that the quality of a draft of the final thesis is also taken into account during the assessment.

A final presentation is also part of the assessment, the assessment will be done by YNH-staff during our BSc thesis student conference. Attending the whole session of the student conference is required. There are 10 minutes for the presentation and after that 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Questions will be posed by peers (fellow students) and the YNH-staff. We strive to have 8 presentations in 1 session, but for organizational reasons there might be more or less presentations in one session. The student conference is open to other BVG students that want to prepare. A rubric for this presentation is available on the Brightspace site. After the BSc thesis student conference the grade for presentation will be shared with the thesis supervisor to include in the BSc thesis assessment form.

### Plagiarism

Obviously, plagiarism is not allowed. In order to check originality, a plagiarism scanner shall be used. The supervisor can use this tool, but next to that all theses need to be handed in through Brightspace to allow for the originality check.

As long as theses are not handed in through Brightspace, the assessment is considered not to be complete and the mark will not be registered.

In every case of suspected plagiarism (copying of texts of other sources and stating this as 'original own work'), the Examining Board will be informed.

The decision whether or not sanctions will be imposed is taken by the Examining Board. The Examining Boards of the Wageningen University define plagiarism in article 21.2, clause h of their 'Rules and Regulations' 2018/2019 as follows:

*It is forbidden to commit any form of plagiarism, including copying, paraphrasing or translating the work of another author in a paper, thesis, or any other form of text that is part of education without indicating that this is a quotation and without correctly reporting the source.*

The possible sanctions that the Examining Board may imply are also described in their 'Rules and Regulations'.

### Assessment flow (example)

Using the assessment procedure we try to determine whether the student is on the right track and/or has met the learning goals of the BSc thesis. The learning goals thus form a basis for the evaluation meetings. The following schedule is an example.

Supervisors can deviate from this example, based on local procedures. The final meeting based on the final version that handed in is not mandatory in every situation.

When	What	Who	How	Decision
Start-up phase	Research proposal	Supervisor	Progress meeting	Continue or change
Work phase	Intermediate report to supervisor about progress	Supervisor	Progress meetings	Continue or change
Concluding phase	Concept version of final thesis	Supervisor	Progress meeting	Continue or change
	Presentation	Programme Team	Student conference	Grade
	Final thesis	Supervisor*	Final defence	Grade

\*The scientific staff member should be present at the final defence to determine the grade, even when daily supervision is done by e.g. a PhD student.

In the matrix below, we've mapped the learning outcomes to the main aspects in the assessment form. This forms the Assessment plan.

<b>intended learning outcomes</b>	<b>Research competencies</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Defence / Final discussion</b>
1. Use knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and mechanisms in their field to answer a research question.	X			
2. Recognize gaps in his knowledge and to review and acquire knowledge in response (under supervision).	X			
3. Know how to use, evaluate and interpret common research techniques in the field of nutrition and health.	X			
4. Write and carry out a (literature) research plan in the field of nutrition and health (under supervision).	X	X		
5. Interpret texts, recognize different ways of reasoning and have a critical and constructive attitude with regard to the analysis and resolving of a problem in their field.	X			X
6. Be aware of the societal and ethical aspects of their research and recognize these aspects in concrete situations.	X			X
7. Report the results in the form of an article or scientific report.		X		
8. Give a proper oral presentation of these results.			X	X
9. Defend these results.				X

#### Registration and archiving

The secretariat of the programme team, on behalf of the course coordinators, is responsible for both the registration of the final grade as well as archiving the BSc thesis. The supervisor should hand in the completely filled-in assessment form including a signature, either at room 1039, Helix or scanned and send by email to [bvg.mnh@wur.nl](mailto:bvg.mnh@wur.nl). This cannot be left to the student to do.

The supervisor, through the assessment form, informs the secretariat to which chair group code the hours should be booked.

The student should upload the BSc thesis as PDF, Word or Open-office document via the Brightspace site of the course, also when originality is already checked by the supervisor. This uploaded version will be used for the originality check and will be archived for quality assurance.

The programme and course coordinators do not require any printed versions of the BSc thesis. The student bears the costs for printing / copying the BSc thesis when so desired.

#### **The principal themes of the content**

The BSc thesis concerns a theme in the field of one of the chair groups connected to the programme.

#### **Course schedule**

In periods 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 a kick-off meeting is scheduled for the BSc thesis. Attending one of the meetings is compulsory before starting the BSc thesis. Date, time and venue are announced in the Study Handbook. The kick-off meeting is also the moment to register for presenting at our BSc thesis student conference.

The BSc thesis is written individually, the student will schedule meetings and the final defence in consultation with the supervisor(s).

In periods 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 a BSc thesis student conference is organised, in which students present their work. Participating in the student conference is compulsory and part of the BSc thesis assessment. Dates, time and venue are announced in the Study Handbook; detailed programmes including presenters are published on Brightspace.