



MSc thesis guidelines & regulations at HPP

Here is all you need to know

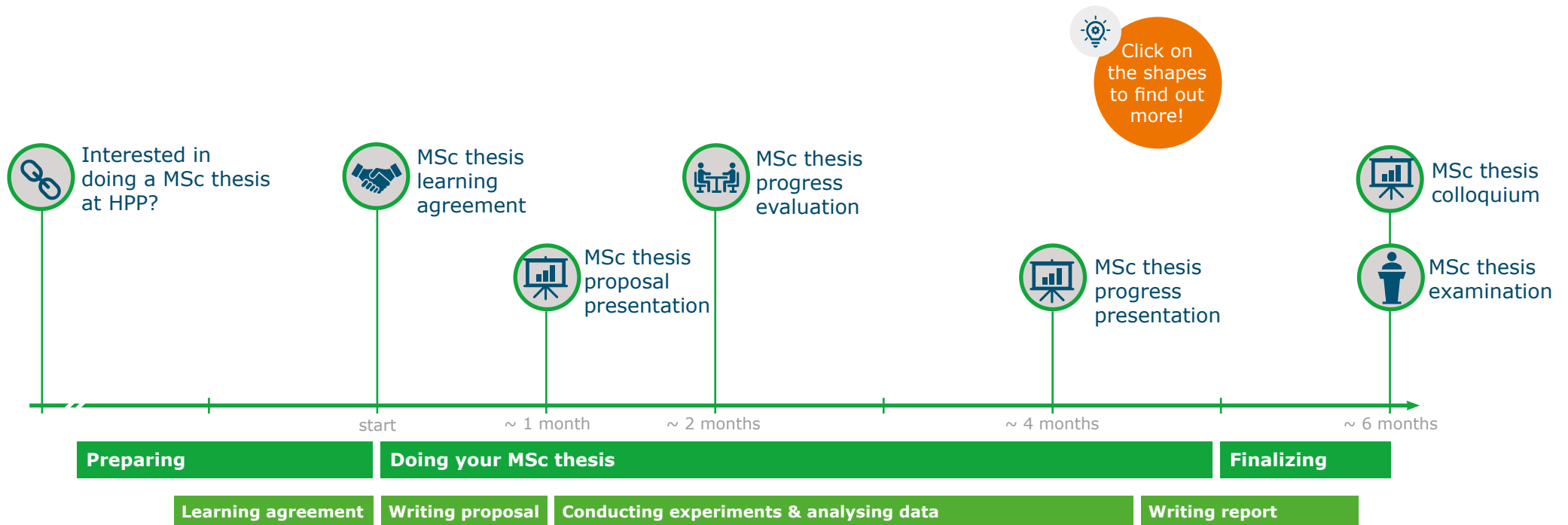
Welcome!

Part A of the MSc thesis course guide describes the general procedures at Wageningen University & Research. In this document (Part B), we describe the specific procedures for doing a MSc thesis at the Horticulture & Product Physiology (HPP) group.

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Overview of MSc thesis guidelines & regulation at HPP

In the figure below you can find all information related to doing a MSc thesis at HPP; from preparing your thesis till finalizing your report. Click on the individual topics to be directed to the corresponding information. More information can be found on the HPP Brightspace page.



Interested in doing a MSc thesis at HPP?

When?

We advise you to start orientating yourself at least 3 - 4 months before you want to start your MSc thesis.

How?

Step 1

You can check the [HPP website](#) or the [TIP database](#) for available MSc thesis topics at HPP. We are also regularly present at the thesis market.

Step 2

Send an email to the HPP student coordinator [Katharina Hanika](#) with the following information:

1. Which HPP courses you already completed,
2. Which three thesis projects you find interesting, and
3. When you are planning to start your MSc thesis

Step 3

We will contact you to see what is possible!

Prerequisites for doing a MSc thesis at HPP

If you would like to do a MSc thesis on pre-harvest, you must have completed:

- [HPP31806](#) (Advanced Methods for Plant-Climatic Research in Controlled Environments)


If you would like to do a MSc thesis on post-harvest, you must have completed:



- [HPP30806](#) (Postharvest Physiology) and/or
- [HPP31306](#) (Product Quality Measurements & Analysis)

Preparing for your MSc thesis at HPP

After getting in touch with HPP and finding a match with a supervisor for a thesis topic students and supervisors start preparing.

Part 1 | Preparations before start of thesis

~ 2 months before thesis start	What	Who
	Learning agreement The student starts the administrative procedure for the MSc thesis in Osiris-Case together with the direct supervisor. Details are shared with the student by Katharina.	supervisor, student, Katharina
<i>Please have a look at the last page for all relevant contact persons.</i>		

~ 2 weeks before thesis start	What	Who
	Access to Radix The HPP office will arrange access for the student to Radix.	HPP office
	Scheduling lab introduction If applicable, the supervisor(s) schedule an introduction to the HPP laboratory with the head of the lab (Arjen van de Peppel) and/or the technical staff involved in the project.	supervisor + Arjen
	If the student will work with GMO, the supervisor(s) contact Julian Verdonk for further information.	supervisor + Julian



	What	Who
	<p>HPP Intake meeting (Mondays at 14:00h)</p> <p>During the introduction meeting with Katharina, students receive the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> STAIR (STudents Active In Research) meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis Ring (+ access) <input type="checkbox"/> General thesis time line 	Katharina + student
	<p>Access</p> <p>The HPP office arranges access for the students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> HPP MS Teams <input type="checkbox"/> HPP OneNote <p>The supervisor is responsible for informing the HPP office about arranging access to Unifarm if and when necessary.</p>	HPP office supervisor
	<p>New@HPP</p> <p>For an introduction to the HPP group, the students send a short introduction/CV with a picture to the HPP office.</p>	student + HPP office
	<p>Meeting with your supervisor</p> <p>As an introduction, the students and supervisor(s) meet to discuss details of the project and planning. Furthermore, the supervisor(s) give a short tour of the facilities (e.g. laboratory, student room, Unifarm etc.). The supervisors also provide information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> general weekly meetings at HPP <input type="checkbox"/> meetings between supervisor(s) and students <input type="checkbox"/> documentation of laboratory work & storage of files 	supervisor + student
	<p>Lab introduction, BSTS course and schedule start lab work</p> <p>Before starting to work in the laboratory, students get a general lab introduction by Arjen and/or technical staff involved in the project.</p> <p>For certain HPP laboratories, students have to take the Better Safe Than Sorry (BSTS) course. Arjen provides access to the corresponding Brightspace page.</p> <p>In addition, a meeting before the start of the lab work must be planned with the student, the supervisor, Arjen and/or technical staff involved to plan the use of equipment and materials.</p>	supervisor, Arjen + student

Starting your MSc thesis at HPP

1

Research proposal



After the selection of a topic, the first step of your MSc thesis is to prepare a comprehensive research proposal. During the proposal writing phase you will make yourself familiar with the relevant literature and plan your research activities. For tips and detailed information on writing, please have a look at the document "HPP writing guide", which you can find on the HPP Brightspace page.

In order to support your writing, every HPP student takes part in a thesis ring. The thesis ring is a weekly meeting of HPP MSc students, in which they provide feedback on each others writing. You can find more information about the thesis rings on the HPP Brightspace page.

2

Research plan presentation



Approximately one month after the start of your MSc thesis, you will present your research plan/proposal at the STAIR (**St**udents **A**ctive **I**n **R**esearch) meeting. You have 10 min to present your plan/proposal followed by 20 min discussion with your fellow students. You can find more information about STAIR on the HPP Brightspace page.

3

Data management (Step 1 of 3)



Data management is an essential part of scientific research. Therefore, every student at HPP is obliged to organize, structure and store all data generated during the project properly. This also needs to be discussed with the supervisor.

At the beginning of the project the student is obliged to read the data management cheat sheet provided on Brightspace.

Confidentiality

Your MS thesis will be connected to one or more of the long-term strategic projects that run at HPP, which might be published or patented. Therefore, treat your data as confidential at all times. You are not allowed to spread the content of your work or the content of other people's work in any form without prior written agreement of your supervisor.

Doing your MSc thesis at HPP

1

Experiment logbook

Every HPP student is obliged to record and administrate all experimental work in a logbook. This experiment logbook can either be on paper or digital (e.g. eLabjournal), and should be accessible on request by the supervisor(s) and technical staff at any moment.

The experiment logbook will be handed over to the supervisor at the end of the project together with other data/files.

2

Working hours

During working days, students are not allowed in the laboratory after 17:30h due to safety regulations. Students must leave the building before 19:00h.

Generally, students are not allowed to work during the weekend. If it is strictly necessary for you to be present during the weekend, special arrangements need to be made by your supervisor in consultation with the head of the chair group. Please note that you must be in the laboratory with at least one other person in case an accident happens.

3

Data management (Step 2 of 3)

Before the progress evaluation, the student must have completed the data management self-test on Brightspace.

4

Progress evaluation

Approximately 6 - 10 weeks after the start of your MSc thesis, you will have a progress evaluation with your supervisor(s). In this meeting, aspects such as supervision and performance are discussed based on the principle of two-way feedback. If you have experienced any shortcoming in supervision, then the midterm review is a good moment to bring this up. You can find the MSc thesis progress evaluation form on the HPP Brightspace page.

5

Progress report presentation

Approximately four months after the start of your MSc thesis, you will present your progress at the STAIR meeting. You have 15 min to present your progress followed by 15 min discussion with your fellow students. You can find more information about STAIR on the HPP Brightspace page.

6

Laboratory & Unifarm/Klina regulations

All regulations about the HPP laboratory and Unifarm/Kilma can be found on the HPP Brightspace page and **must** be read and understood by all HPP students before starting the experimental work.



Finalizing your MSc thesis at HPP

1

Final report

Towards the end of your MSc thesis you will write your final report. The writing will be supported by your thesis ring group as well. For tips and detailed information on writing, please have a look at the document "HPP writing guide", which you can find on the HPP Brightspace page.

Before handing in your report, you must submit your report for a **smilarity/plagiarism check** on Brightspace (go to 'Assessment' > 'Assignments'). Include a screenshot of the similarity score, when submitting your report to your supervisor(s) and the examiner.

Submission ID	Submission(s)	Turnitin® Similarity	Date Submitted ▼
456004	 Final_report.pdf (80,17 KB) Turnitin® Submission ID 1697593816	8 % 	09 November 2021 08:52

Important

The final report needs to be handed in to your supervisor(s), the examiner and the HPP office one week before the colloquium!

2

Data management (Step 3 of 3)

Before the colloquium, all HPP students must hand in a digital copy of all results of the thesis work (digital version of the report, RAW and processed data, computer programs, meta data etc.) including the data management check list to the HPP supervisor(s). See Brightspace for details

3

Colloquium

At the end of your project, you will present your final report at the STAIR meeting. You have 20 min to present your final report followed by 10 min discussion with your fellow students. You can find more information about STAIR on the HPP Brightspace page.

4

Examination

After the colloquium, you will have the final examination with your supervisor(s) and the examiner in which you will discuss your results for about 30 - 45 min. The evaluation is based on the MSc thesis assessment form and rubric.

Tip

On Brightspace you can also find a checklist for completing your thesis at HPP.

Relevant contact persons



Katharina Hanika
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Questions?

Send an e-mail to
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