MSc thesis Land Use Planning

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Contents

1. Objective and requirements
2. Organization and planning
3. Finding a topic
Objective of the MSc thesis

The key challenge of the MSc-thesis is to set up and carry out a scientific research project individually and in an (almost) fully self-responsible manner.

Requirements

- Adequate coverage of relevant courses in the field of Land Use Planning and research methodology
- Preferably in the fourth semester of the master (after the internship)
- Usually 36 ECTS for a major thesis and 24 ECTS for a minor thesis
Requirements for MLP students

For a major thesis (36 ECTS):

- Planning Theory (period 4)
- Research Methodology for Planning & Design (period 3)
- Atelier Landscape Architecture and Planning (period 6)
  or the Research Master Cluster

Requirements for MUE students

For a major thesis (36 ECTS):

- Reflections on Planning and Design Practices (period 1)
- Planning for Urban Quality of Life (period 2)
- Planning Theory (period 4)

For a minor thesis LUP (24 ECTS):

- Planning Theory (period 4)
- One other planning course
1. Objective and requirements
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Thesis guidelines

MSc-thesis Guidelines Land Use Planning
(latest version November 2015)

Available at www.lup.wur.nl /education /MSc thesis

Annexes:
• Checklist of actions and responsibilities
• Thesis agreement
• Thesis evaluation sheet
• Rubric with the thesis evaluation sheet

Steps in the process

a) Selecting a topic and supervisor
   First supervisor has to be an assistant, associate or full professor of the Land Use Planning group; second supervisor outside LUP group is possible

b) Preparing a research proposal and starting colloquium

c) Carrying out the research

d) Writing the thesis report

e) Final colloquium and examination
Timing (formal) arrangements

Three months in advance:
• Download and read MSc thesis guidelines LUP
• Think about a topic
• Identify a potential supervisor or discuss possible topics with MSc thesis contact person
• Discuss topic with potential supervisor

Timing (formal) arrangements

Upon start of the research and fixing the topic and supervisor:
• Print the MSc-thesis agreement and have your study advisor sign the first page
• Fill in the rest of the MSc-thesis agreement with your supervisor - both sign the agreement
• The agreement will be signed by examiner and you will receive a copy by email
Timing (formal) arrangements

After finalising the research proposal:
• Send the research proposal to the secretary of the LUP group
• Prepare and give a start colloquium to fellow students and LUP staff (together with 2 or 3 other students)

Timing (formal) arrangements

Three to four weeks before end of MSc thesis:
• Discuss draft report with supervisor
• Make arrangements and set date and time of final colloquium and examination
• Second reviewer appointed from LUP group
Timing (formal) arrangements

Final examination:
• Give final colloquium to staff, students and other interested people
• Evaluation and assessment by supervisor and second reviewer – you will receive your tentative mark with arguments
• Thesis evaluation sheet filled in and signed by supervisor, second reviewer and examiner
• You will receive a copy of the signed evaluation sheet

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Identifying a topic

Start thinking about a topic NOW, as topics and scientific literature used in Land Use Planning courses can be a good starting point for identifying a topic.

In general: your topic should connect to the expertise and research of staff members of the Land Use Planning group.

Finding a topic

Search the website of the Land Use Planning group

- [www.lup.wur.nl](http://www.lup.wur.nl) button Staff
- [www.lup.wur.nl](http://www.lup.wur.nl) button Research
- [www.lup.wur.nl](http://www.lup.wur.nl) button Education /MSc thesis
Names and faces

Prof Dr Leonie Janssen-Jansen
Area-based urban and regional development; Urban governance; Land policy and property development; Institutional innovation

Prof Dr Arnold van der Valk
Urban agriculture and food systems; Spatial planning and governance; Landscape heritage management

Dr Martha Bakker
Analysing land use patterns; Land use change modelling; Tipping points and regime shifts in land-use systems

Names and faces

Dr Claudia Basta
Technological risks in planning; Transport and energy networks; Energy landscapes; Ethics in planning

Dr Joks Janssen
Cultural heritage; Landscape heritage management; Regional development

Dr Marleen Buizer
Spatial planning and governance; Public administration and management; Discourse analysis; Scaling
Names and faces

Dr Wim van der Knaap
Sustainable energy landscapes; Water and flood risk management; Multi-dynamics and time aspects in spatial planning

Dr Bas Pedroli
Landscape ecology, Biodiversity assessment; Integrated water management; Land use dynamics; Policy evaluation

Dr Gerrit Jan Carsjens
Strategic planning and regional development; Sustainable agriculture; Environmental assessment; Urban climate adaptation

Questions?

Questions and further information:

Gerrit Jan Carsjens
Gaia Room B 218

Appointments can be made by email: gerrit-jan.carsjens@wur.nl