



**Prof. Dr Claudio J. Tessone**

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## Master Thesis: Guideline

Before starting a Master Thesis under my, or one collaborator's supervision the following steps must be provided.

1. After an introductory discussion, the student must write a document (around two-three pages) with the following contents
  - i. **Problem statement:** Positioning the problem to be addressed, its relevance and the state-of-the-art. Such text should be understood also by a non-specialist.
  - ii. **Research question:** Succinctly, the research question to be addressed must be clearly, unambiguously, specified.
  - iii. **Requirements:** Data required, source, *and which party is responsible for its provision* must be stated in this section. Knowledge to be acquired (e.g. familiarisation with specific software packages or methodologies), too.
    - a. If the student party does not provide a requirement that was accounted to her/his, this may impact the final grade.
    - b. If the requirement was to be provided by myself / a collaborator / or third party with my – or a collaborator's – direct participation, no impact in the final grade will take place.
  - iv. **Methods and expected results:** The methodology to be used must be described. The type of analysis and kind of results are to be elicited.
  - v. **Timeline:** Either by means of a diagram or in written text, the successive milestones must be realistically drawn. If requirements are necessary for the accomplishment of a specific task, said requirements must also be included in the timeline.
  - vi. **Skeleton of the Thesis:** The Sections to be contained in the Thesis. It is understood that this may change during the development of the actual work.
2. The contents of the Thesis proposal must be approved by Prof. Tessone. Once the approval is granted, the student needs to compile and sign the "Registration form Master's Thesis" from <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html>. The form must be then sent together with the proposal to Prof. Tessone, who will register it in the Department.



3. If the student does not belong to the Department of Informatics, she/he must confirm with the corresponding contact person in his/her Department that the Thesis can be performed under our supervision. By regulation of the Faculty, this should be possible.
4. During the development of the Thesis both parties (in this case, either Prof. Tessone or a collaborator) are open to be in contact every two weeks, and have a meeting, if necessary, to address open questions and to adhere to the timeline.
5. This list is just a guideline and it is subject to change. Additional requirements may be necessary.