

Guidelines for Co-Written Master's Theses at the Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics

Instructions for Co-Written Master's Theses

In a co-written master's thesis, two students collaborate on a chosen topic, jointly producing the research materials and final thesis. The thesis is graded as a single submission, and the workload must be evenly distributed between both students. When submitting, they provide a report explaining how the 50/50 workload division was achieved if requested. The students can divide tasks as they wish (e.g., Student A writes sections 1 and 3, while Student B writes sections 4 and 5, with both collaborating on the structure, conclusions, and introduction). Co-written theses may have specific requirements related to the field of study, such as a greater scope of content or an empirical section than individual theses. Always check these with your supervisor!

Work and Evaluation

The University of Jyväskylä's degree regulations (§45) allow students to write a master's thesis in collaboration. In such cases, students commit to contributing equally to the co-written thesis. The thesis is primarily evaluated jointly, without separating the grades. The workload must be equally distributed (50/50), and the evaluation is based on this division of labor.

Upon submission of the co-written thesis, the students must provide a report detailing how the 50/50 division of labor was implemented (if requested by the supervisor). The report should clearly outline the contributions and the extent of work from both students, allowing for independent assessment.

Students are responsible for the originality and content of the co-written thesis.

If the equal distribution of work is not achieved in practice, the situation must be immediately reported to the supervisor. The supervisor may take the imbalance into account when evaluating the thesis.

Students agree to follow the university's general guidelines and rules regarding co-written theses, including good academic practices, plagiarism, the use of AI tools, and referencing.

Differentiated Evaluation and Individual Work

If necessary, the evaluation of contributions can be differentiated by the supervisor. In such cases, the supervisor considers any imbalance in contributions as a basis for grading. The student must be able to demonstrate their individual contribution to the thesis.

A student has the right to terminate the collaboration, after which each will submit their own individual thesis for evaluation. If the collaboration ends, students can use materials produced prior to its termination. The supervisor will determine the necessary actions and any sections that need to be rewritten to complete the individual thesis.

A student may also stop the thesis review process before grading, in accordance with section 45 of the University of Jyväskylä's degree regulations. Students should first agree with the supervisor on the actions required to complete the work. The supervisor may, if needed, differentiate the evaluation and define the necessary steps for completion.

It is not recommended to terminate collaboration when the work is far advanced, as individual theses must pass a plagiarism check. Students may also be required to rewrite certain sections as instructed by the supervisor.

Rights in Co-Written and Individual Theses:

Copyrights for the co-written thesis and the research material belong jointly to the students.

Any further use of the work or creation of new works or other intellectual property derived from it must be agreed upon by the students.

The co-written master's thesis is a public academic work and is stored in the JYX repository. For individual theses, the student holds the copyright to their own work and any material created after the collaboration ends. Both students have the right to use material produced prior to the termination of the collaboration in their individual work.

Further instructions are available on the University of Jyväskylä website:

Instructions for bachelor's and master's students, Thesis guide: <https://www.jyu.fi/en/for-students/instructions-for-bachelors-and-masters-students/thesis-guide>