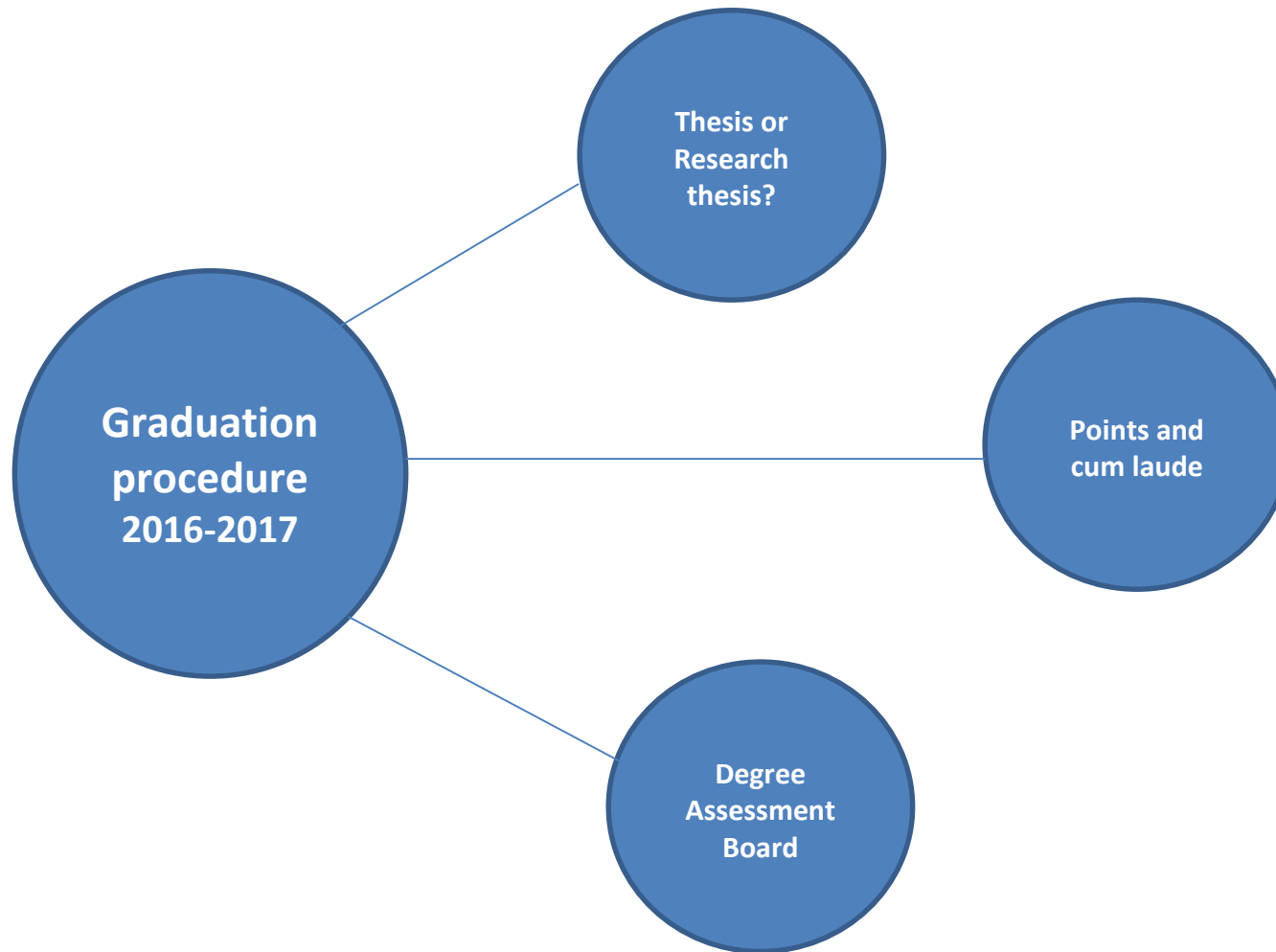# GRADUATE SCHOOL

# MASTER OF SCIENCE

## CHANGE IN RULES RELATING TO WRITING A THESIS AND THE GRADUATION PROCEDURES

# GRADUATION PROCEDURE

✓ Selection between two types of theses with different grade-awarding criteria
  - *THESIS* (0 to 5 points)
  - *RESEARCH THESIS* (0 to 8 points)

✓ 1 point for graduation within the first two sessions of the academic year – July and October (only for students enrolled in the second year as regular students 'in corso') (*)

✓ Cum laude can be awarded when the total points equal at least 111

✓ Discussant professor automatically assigned

Each of these points is explained in greater detail in the following pages

(*) *The total maximum no. of points for the research thesis + completion of studies within the first two sessions cannot be more than 8 points.*

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Graduation procedure 2016-2017

- Thesis or Research thesis?
- Points and cum laude
- Degree Assessment Board

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**Thesis or Research thesis?**

✓ First of all, together with his/her Advisor, the student should talk about the type of thesis he/she intends to write;

✓ The student has to select the type of thesis on the Graduation Applications procedure, choosing between:

- Thesis

- Research thesis

As a general guide, writing a research thesis calls for more engagement in terms of time needed.

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✓ What is a **THESIS**?

✓ A thesis is about a specific issue, relevant in relation to the contents of the student's Study Program.

✓ It is a type of thesis that cannot be defined in one single way as it is strictly linked to the student's individual Study (see slide 6).

✓ As a general guide, the thesis could include:
- Case studies (Industry analysis);
- Business plan;
- Collection and processing of data on issues of significance for the MSc program;
- In-depth analysis of the literature as regards a research topic;
- ….

✓ The thesis must include a review of the literature and identify a specific issue to be analyzed.

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**Thesis - specific for MSc programs**

**AFC, CLELI**
a. Study of assessment-related cases (e.g. company, asset, liability), balance sheet analyses, forensic/fraud accounting;
b. Presentation of problems regarding the application of regulations and accounting standards;
c. Design and check ups of control systems.

**IM, M, MM, ACME, EMIT**
a. Case studies;
b. Industry analysis;
c. Business plan/marketing plan.

**GIO**
a. Policy evaluation report;
b. Organizational diagnosis of a public organization (national or international);
c. Business plan or strategic plan for a public organization.

**CLEFIN/FINANCE**
a. Study of assessment-related cases (e.g. company, asset, liability);
b. Presentation of problems regarding the application of regulations related to financial intermediaries and risk management/solvency;
c. Collection and processing of elements of data or other objective elements without any hypothesis or innovative theory.

**DES/ESS**
a. Commented empirical analysis of a research topic;
b. In-depth analysis of a research topic (of a descriptive nature, with broad reference to the literature and possibly to an internship experience, but generally not including an empirical analysis).

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**Research thesis**

✓ What is a **RESEARCH THESIS?**

- A research project aimed at producing scientific knowledge or methodologies; or
- An applied research project aimed at analyzing and finding a solution to a given problem.

✓ The adopted approach can be:

- Inductive or deductive;
- General or applied;
- Quantitative or qualitative.

✓ The work must include:

- An in-depth review of the literature
- Defining the research problem based on a research gap
- Defining the methodology used
- An analysis of the results obtained

**Points and awarding of 'cum laude'**

✓ How many *points* can be awarded for a thesis?

 ● For a thesis, from **0 to 5 points out of 110 can be awarded**;
 ● For a research thesis, from **0 to 8 points out of 110 can be awarded**.
 (*See Annex 1 for the assessment criteria*)

✓ Can any **additional points** be awarded ?
 **1 point out of 110 will be awarded depending on the time of graduation, only to those students who graduate in the first two sessions available for their second year of studies as regular students 'in corso' (i.e. July or October).**

✓ How is the **graduation grade** calculated?
 • Mathematical grade point average weighted on the credit point values of all grades expressed out of 30 and converted into a grade out of 110;
 • + points out of 110 for the thesis/research thesis;
 • + possible 1 point out of 110 for graduation within the first two sessions.

 **IMPORTANT:** in any case, the total maximum no. of points for the research thesis + completion of studies within the first two sessions cannot be more than 8 points.

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**Points and awarding of 'cum laude'**

✓ **What are the criteria for awarding 'cum laude'?**

**The Degree Assessment Board can unanimously award 'cum laude' to students who meet the following conditions:**
- **Graduation grade of at least 111;**
- **No disciplinary actions during the academic career with a sanction exceeding 6 months.**

**Support for students and structure of the Degree Assessment Board**

✓ **Where can the student find support in the delicate phase of choosing which type of the thesis to write?**

- ● **each Department offers a specific thesis orientation service;**

- ● **orientation meetings held by MSc Program Directors will be scheduled.**

✓ **A discussant professor will be automatically assigned to each graduating student.**

✓ **As a general guide, the Degree Assessment Board will always include a faculty member of the student's MSc Program.**

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# Annex 1

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# Assessment Criteria for Research Theses

| Points | Level | Requisites |
|---|---|---|
| 0 - 2 | Sufficient | Despite being formally correct, the work is not particularly in-depth or innovative. The presentation and thesis defense were clear enough. |
| 3 - 4 | Fairly Good | The work is clear and original. The candidate has demonstrated knowledge of the literature relevant to the analyzed topic but failed to make a particularly innovative contribution. The presentation and defense of the work were clear and fairly good. |
| 5 - 6 | Good | The work is original and innovative, rigorously conducted and presented in a clear and effective way. The presentation and defense of the work were clear and good. |
| 7 - 8 | Excellent | The work is particularly innovative and original compared to existing literature. The methodology was rigorous and in-depth. The graduate demonstrated excellent skills of analysis and synthesis, both in the writing and during the presentation. The presentation and defense were particularly clear and good, showing the student's excellent critical skills. Ideally, the work and presentation should place in the top 20%. |

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# Assessment Criteria for MSc Thesis

| Points | Level | Requisites |
|--------|-------|------------|
| 0 - 1 | Sufficient | Despite being formally correct, the work deals with a topic which is not particularly relevant, is based on a simple analysis and doesn't provide any original contributions. |
| 2 - 3 | Fairly Good | The work presents a relevant topic, develops a well structured analysis and provides some original evidence. The presentation of the work is clear. |
| 4 - 5 | Good | The work focuses on a very relevant topic, develops a rigorous and well structured analysis and provides some original considerations and conclusions. The presentation and discussion of the work is clear and effective. |