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TAU/2551/501/2022

Policy on the double theses of master's degrees at Tampere University from 1 August 2022

In this policy, a double thesis means authoring a thesis and submitting it for assessment to two master's degrees or two Finnish universities simultaneously.

The faculties decide whether completing a double thesis is possible in their degree programmes. Faculties may also decide to apply this policy in cases when one thesis is submitted for assessment in two different master's degrees at Tampere University.

Please find below a description of the principles governing master's theses in cases where the master's thesis is drafted for two disciplines as a so-called double master's thesis.

- The double master's thesis must be approved by both universities or faculties at the very first stages.
- The thesis must meet the requirements and objectives of both disciplines and be clearly broader in scope than a traditional thesis for a regular degree.
- The published thesis must state that it is a joint thesis in two disciplines and include the names of both disciplines.
- The thesis is always public.

The general conditions a double master's thesis must fulfil are:

- The faculty has decided that it is possible to complete a double thesis in its degree programmes.
- Co-operation is expected to bring significant added value, quality, or impact to the thesis.
- The regulations of both universities allow double theses and are sufficiently compatible.
- Both universities have sufficient resources for supervision and supervisors who are committed to joint supervision.

The more specific formal requirements governing the drafting and approval of a double thesis are:

- The possibility of completing a double thesis is negotiated before the work begins by representatives of both disciplines or a person to whom this task is delegated (at Tampere University, the Head of Degree Programme represents the discipline).
- A thesis supervisor is appointed by both disciplines or universities.
- The supervisors and student must negotiate the topic, content, and scope of the thesis, the practices of supervision and the timetable, the discipline-specific requirements, and the assessment of the thesis.

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- A joint written agreement is drafted about the double thesis detailing at least the following aspects: language of the thesis and maturity test, writing and assessment schedule, checking the originality of the manuscript, available supervision resources and the duration of the supervisory relationship.

By signing the agreement, both supervisors, the student and the representatives of the discipline or degree programme commit to the preconditions of the double master's thesis, number of credits required by both degrees as well as the learning outcomes and fulfilment of other requirements.

- The contents of the thesis are closely connected to both disciplines and the author demonstrates a command of the theories, methods and/or data of both disciplines.
- The scope of the thesis is wider than that of a regular thesis so that the association with the different disciplines is sufficient.
- An electronic originality checking of the thesis is done. The originality checking can only be done once, meaning that both supervisors go through the report and approve it.

Before submitting the thesis for assessment, the student should contact Tampere University Library to get the guidelines on the submission and archiving of the thesis.

- The double thesis and the related maturity test are submitted to both disciplines or universities at the same time.
- The thesis is assigned at least two examiners.
 - At least one of the examiners must be employed by Tampere University.
 - At least one of the examiners must have completed at least a master's degree.
 - For a special reason, the Dean may appoint an outsider as the second examiner. (Section 28, Tampere University Regulations on Degrees).

At Tampere University, the Dean makes the decision on the grade based on the examiners' statement.

- Both examiners submit their own statement. Stipulations on the grade are contained in Section 31 of Tampere University Regulations on Degrees.
- The examiners may also issue a joint statement and the proposal for the grade can be different in the two disciplines.
- In the assessment form, the examiners note that the assessment of the thesis has been informed by the fact that the thesis is a double thesis in two disciplines.
- The thesis is public.
- Stipulations on appeals regarding the assessment of the thesis contained in Section 35 of Tampere University Regulations on Degrees are applied.

The faculties and Education and Continuous Learning services may issue further guidelines.