

## Information to Supervisors of Master's Degree Projects in Biology, Department of Biology, Lund University

The Master's Degree Project is one of the most important and valuable courses that our students take during their Master's education. Therefore, we are grateful for the support and mentorship that you, any co-supervisors, and other members of your research team can provide throughout the different stages of the project. We also hope that our students are invited to group meetings, journal clubs, seminars, or other relevant activities at their work place. This is important for their education, even if it is not always directly relevant for their specific projects.

Please find the instructions and documents for degree projects at <http://www.biology.lu.se/education/undergraduate-studies/courses/masters-degree-projects>

Below we highlight and develop points that are particularly relevant for you as supervisor.

- The student writes a project plan before the project starts. At this early stage, it is natural that the student needs substantial input from you. The plan (including time plan and budget) will provide an important framework for the student throughout the project. The coordinator of the Master's programme/specialisation is responsible for approving the project plan.
- If the project is performed outside the Department of Biology, Lund University a **Contact person** might be needed. Please discuss this with the coordinator.
- The registration form must be signed both by the supervisor and the coordinator and handed in by the student before the start of the project.
- The student shall carefully document her/his work in either a physical or a digital research logbook. Please, oversee that this is done in a proper way and provide instructions if necessary. The research notebook should be accessible to the examination committee and may be evaluated as part of the examination.
- When half the project time has passed, the student and the supervisor evaluates how the project proceeds and how well it follows the time plan. This "half-time evaluation" is sent to the coordinator.
- The Master's Thesis should be a scientific report in the style of a paper for a scientific journal. The report is the most important basis for the examination and the student should write it independently, but it is also a significant part of her/his training. Therefore, we appreciate if you provide support and advice during the writing process and give constructive feedback before the student submits the final version (via Urkund) to the coordinator.

- A short popular science summary should also be submitted before the examination. Please give the student feedback on this before you approve it.
- At the oral examination, the student gives a seminar, and is questioned by the examiner and an external opponent. The coordinator is responsible for arranging the examination.
- At the examination, we will ask for your evaluation (see guidelines for evaluation) of the student's performance during the project.
- It is possible to publish the report in a database called LUP, Lund University Publications Student Papers, <https://lup.lub.lu.se/student-papers/search/>. Note that this will make the thesis publicly available through the internet, which might compromise future publication of the results in a scientific journal. At the examination, you and the student shall approve publication of the full report, only abstract and popularized summary, or only popularized summary.
- If you have any questions or concerns at any stage of the project, please get in touch with the coordinator, contact person or study advisor.

### **Master's programme in Biology, Dept. of Biology, Lund University**

Study advisor: Lotta Persmark, Lotta.Persmark@biol.lu.se, 046-222 37 28

Main coordinator: Jan-Åke Nilsson, Jan-Ake.Nilsson@biol.lu.se, 046-222 45 69

Specialization in Biology general: Caroline Isaksson, Caroline.Isaksson@biol.lu.se  
046-222 17 80

Specialization in Animal Ecology: Dennis Hasselquist, Dennis.Hasselquist@biol.lu.se  
046-222 37 08

Specialization Aquatic Ecology: Per Carlsson, Per.Carlsson@biol.lu.se  
046-222 84 35

Specialization in Conservation Biology: Ola Olsson, Ola.Olsson@biol.lu.se  
046-222 37 74

Specialization in Plant Science: Stefan Andersson, Stefan.Andersson@biol.lu.se  
046-222 44 08