Subject-specific grade explanation for Master's thesis, including examiner valuation, at the Institute of Biology, NTNU
(Approved by the National Academic Council for Biology)

SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT

The Master thesis should be graded before examination, including ½ - 1 page describing the justification of the grading.

The justification must cover the following points:
1) The extent to which the thesis is creative and outstanding.
2) The extent to which the candidate shows theoretical understanding of the discipline.
3) The extent to which the candidate succeeds in relating his or her contribution to the academic developments and latest research in the discipline.
4) Has the candidate independently generated important hypotheses and solutions, and are these used in a relevant way in the thesis.
5) Is the thesis written within the norms of scientific authorship, and is it styled towards a publication channel.
6) If the presentation is accurate and clear.
7) Level of linguistic formulation.
8) If possible; assess the potential of further research

Grade A:	90-100 %
Grade B:	80- 89 %
Grade C:	60- 79 %
Grade D:	50- 59 %
Grade E:	40- 49 %
Grade F:	0- 39 %

Symbol	Description	Subject-specific description of grades for Master thesis at the Institute of Biology (approved by the National Academic Council for Biology)
A	Excellent	The candidate has submitted an outstanding and creative thesis within prescribed time. The candidate demonstrates a broad theoretical understanding of the discipline and ability to discuss his or her contributions in relation to the academic progression and latest research in the discipline. The candidate has independently generated important hypotheses and methodologies in the thesis, and used them in a relevant way. The candidate demonstrates a very good understanding of the methodologies and discusses their advantages and disadvantages. The thesis follows the current norms of scientific authorship, and the style is adapted to a given publication channel. The presentation is precise, clear and linguistically good. The candidate possesses all the relevant technical skills for the thesis, and can work independently under good academic supervision.
B	Very good	The candidate has submitted a very good thesis within the prescribed time. The candidate demonstrates a very good theoretical understanding of the discipline and ability to discuss his or her contributions in a larger context. The candidate demonstrates a very good understanding of the choice of methodologies, and discusses their advantages and disadvantages. The thesis follows the current norms of scientific authorship, and the style is

		adapted to a given publication channel. The presentation is precise, clear and linguistically good. The candidate demonstrates a variety of technical skills and can work independently under good academic supervision.
C	**Good**	The candidate has submitted a good thesis within the prescribed time. The candidate demonstrates a good theoretical understanding of the discipline and choice of methodology. The thesis follows the current norms of scientific authorship, and the style is adapted to a given publication channel. The presentation is generally good, but has some shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates good technical skills and can work independently under good academic supervision.
D	**Satisfactory**	The candidate has submitted a thesis with obvious deficiencies within the prescribed time. The candidate demonstrates limited theoretical understanding of the discipline and choice of methodology. The presentation is unstructured and seems unfinished. The candidate reveals a lack of technical skills and a limited ability to work independently under academic supervision.
E	**Sufficient**	The candidate has submitted a paper with major deficiencies within the prescribed time. The candidate demonstrates little theoretical understanding of the discipline and choice of methodology. The presentation is disorderly and difficult to follow. The candidate lacks substantial technical skills and has little ability to work independently under supervision.
F	**Fail**	The candidate has not submitted an acceptable assignment within the prescribed time. The candidate has not gained sufficient theoretical understanding of the discipline and choice of methodology. The presentation is difficult to follow and inadequate in most respects. The candidate has despite substantial supervision failed to complete the thesis in an acceptable manner.