

Rules, registration form and working card are found in this link

<https://student.portal.chalmers.se/en/chalmersstudies/masters-thesis/Pages/masters-thesis-work.aspx>

Some of you have already started to think about your MSc thesis work (MTh), and some have even got one such already.

I am attaching a pdf with the rules applying for MThs at Chalmers. However, it might be convenient to summarize a bit the whole procedure, which can look a bit messy and complicated when looked at from the Chalmers' homepage.

- To start the MTh, you need to have registered 45 passed credits from the MPSES programme.
- The MTh can be carried out individually or in a group of 2 people.
- Once you have found some task to carry out (in principle, it can be at any company/department/university). If you need inspiration, you can check which [research projects](#) are driven at Chalmers (you can sort/search by research field, department, researcher...) former MPSES-MTh in the [database](#), you'll need both a supervisor and an examiner (the same person can play both roles, but this is not recommended, it is always good for you to have a second person to address in case things would go somewhat wrong). You'll work with your supervisor, the examiner's only tasks are to decide when the work carried out has enough quality to be considered for evaluation and evaluate it. When carrying out your MTh at the industry, you will most probably be assigned a supervisor at that company, but you still need a supervisor and an examiner from Chalmers (although the supervisor from Chalmers will probably not work with you as much as if you did your MTh at Chalmers).
- Remember that among the work tasks there must be some of research nature (we have had cases with companies willing to use MTh students as free manpower to perform a consulting job, which is not acceptable) and performed in an independent way.
- Having this, you need to write in agreement with your supervisor at Chalmers a short description of the field of study and work tasks to be carried out (not longer than one A4), which your examiner approves. Important: even if you carry out your MTh at the industry, your supervisor at Chalmers must be active in the design of the work tasks. First after his/her approval, this short description is sent to me for approval as valid MTh for the MPSES programme.
- After this, you need to fill the attached registration form with your personal data and the signature of your examiner and pass by my office. Then, we'll fill the rest of the fields and sign it. After that, you bring the form to the Student Center and that's it. about 1 week your MTh will be officially registered (note: wait until official registration is done before starting your MTh abroad!).
- Thereafter, you'll need to pick up a Working Card at the student center, in which you will gather different signatures certifying that you have presented your MTh, opposed another one and attended other defences.
- It is strongly recommended that you find an opponent as soon as possible although you don't need this to start your MTh. To get your MSc degree you will need to oppose on someone's MTh (and get a form signed by the corresponding examiner to prove it), and it is nice to avoid rather dramatic situations by knowing well ahead who you will be opposing. Again, this is not compulsory to start your MTh, but STRONGLY recommended. No exceptions are made: oral opposition to a MTh is a must for obtaining a degree.

A common question is always: how to find a MTh? Use contacts you may have in the industry (e.g. guest lecturers in courses, or course staff which most often have contacts with the industry) or simply identify companies of your interest and address to them with an idea. If you are thinking about carrying out your MTh within research at Chalmers, there are some on the department's homepage, but far from all available, and this is made on purpose: research staff wants motivated students

interested in their field who actively look for and think of a master's thesis, and not just get it served. My best advice is to decide a couple of fields in which you are interested, think of potential thesis works you'd like to perform, and address yourself to the course staff responsible for the fields you have chosen (lecturer/s, but also course assistants). Again: the worst thing you can do is knocking on a door and say "I need to do a MSc thesis; have you anything for me here?". Show you interest and that you have thought about the field and the activities in that department, and most often you'll find then there is something to do within that field.

The link below brings you to the lectures (slides) about three different types of MSc thesis works hold by former MPSES students:

https://chalmersuniversity.app.box.com/files/0/f/3041340623/Presentation_Slides

Last but not least: finding a MTh goes very fast for some and very slow for others. It depends on how clear ideas you have about what you want to do, your performance in some courses, your ability to sell yourself and, to some extent, luck. About the same factors you'll encounter when you look for a job afterwards; indeed, more than half of MPSES-students have their first job in the same company-university for which they carried out the MSc thesis. So for many, having looked for a MTh turns out in practice having looked for a job.

That's mostly it, but in any case don't hesitate to ask me if any doubt arises. Good luck!

Bests,

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