

**MASTER'S THESIS GUIDELINES**  
**Master's Degree Programme in International Management**  
Head of the IM degree: Professor Federico Maria Mucciarelli  
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To complete the IM degree course, all students must submit a Dissertation or Thesis, which will be presented and discussed in the thesis defence.<sup>1</sup>

The thesis/dissertation will be written in English and should constitute a piece of original work which involves conducting research on an approved topic related to the Master's degree programme contents. The dissertation should combine both theoretical and empirical aspects, although one component may be more prominent than the other one.

The thesis research project can also stem from an internship experience.

Overall, the thesis is expected to demonstrate the student's ability to apply theoretical and analytical knowledge, and to tackle complex issues within a subject related to the curriculum.

Throughout the thesis-related research projects, students will be supported and supervised by a teacher/supervisor (also known as "relatore").

Supervisors will be assigned to students by an appointed Committee.

**Rules for students enrolled in the first year in the 2022/2023 A.Y. and earlier**

Students can apply for the allocation of a supervisor only if (1) they have completed all the exams included in their study programme or (2) if they still have to take exams but the total number of credits to be earned does not exceed **15 ECTS**.

Students who have been selected for Outbound mobility programs towards non-European countries and for the Modena-Bochum Double Degree (DD) programme can apply for the allocation of a supervisor even though they still have to take exams and the total number of credits to be earned exceeds **15 ECTS**. In this case, however, the Professor responsible for coordinating the exchange within the outbound mobility programmes towards non-European countries or the Modena-Bochum DD programmes will be appointed as their supervisor.

The IM **students** who want to do a **company internship** should relate it to the master thesis and select the internships among the ones offered by the master degree course in International Management ("Internship and Thesis in Italy and abroad" programme); in this matter, they can apply for the allocation of a supervisor and company internship even though they still have to take exams and the total number of credits to be earned exceeds **15 ECTS** (but it doesn't have to exceed **27 ECTS**).

**Self-selected internships are not approved by the Committee (see Note 3 for exceptions).**

**How to apply for the allocation of your thesis supervisor?**

Applications will be evaluated three times a year.

→ **A meeting will be arranged duly in advance in order to explain the application rules.**

→ After the meeting the procedure will be open and the students in line with the requirements can fill in the form available at: [thesis supervisor allocation form](#)

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<sup>1</sup> The thesis defence ('viva') is an oral examination forming part of the final assessment process for Master's students.

The possibility to fill in the form will be open for almost one week.

The **approximate deadlines** are:

- at the end of the Winter term – approximate deadline: 27th February 2026
- during the Summer term – approximate deadline: 26th June 2026
- at the end of the Summer term – approximate deadline: 25th September 2026

**Please note that these terms and deadlines can be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.**

**However, you will always receive notifications by email about new terms/deadlines (please, always check your UNIMORE email address).**

Students will be informed about their thesis supervisors approximately within one month after each deadline.

#### **Note 1:**

In filling out the form, students must express **their preferences for each Professor** eligible as thesis supervisor within the Master's Degree Programme in International Management, ranking them from the highest (1st choice) to the lowest one (last choice). During the assignment process, the Committee will take students' preferences into consideration as far as possible. However, in order to ensure a fair distribution of teaching commitments among the Professors, **the Committee may appoint as supervisor a Professor, who does not correspond to the students' first choices.**

This is the list of Professors from which students can select their preferences:

- **TIZIANO BURSI:** Internationalization strategies; Entry strategies in foreign markets; Evaluation and selection of international markets; Supporting policies of internationalization strategies.
- **MADDALENA CAVICCHIOLI:** Data analysis; Statistical learning; Statistical and econometric models, Stochastic Processes, Nonlinear Models, Estimation Methods, Testing Problems, Algorithms for Model Selection.
- **YLENIA CURZI:** Digital transformation of work and changes in working conditions; Performance Management Systems; Organization and wellbeing at work; High Involvement/High Commitment/High Performance Human Resource Management practices; Organization, diversity and inclusion.
- **DONATELLA MALAVASI:** The language of business communication; The language of the new media; Inter- and cross-cultural communication; CSR communication.
- **GIANLUCA MARCHI:** Innovation and creativity management; Start up and new ventures; Internationalization strategies; Knowledge management.
- **ELISA MARTINELLI:** Retail branding strategies; Supplier-retailer relationships; Country of Origin Effect; Shopping buying behavior/Customer satisfaction and loyalty; Dynamic capabilities; Disaster management and enterprise resilience.
- **FEDERICO M. MUCCIARELLI:** International insolvencies; International company law; Recognition of foreign judgements.
- **COSIMO BEVERELLI:** Impacts of trade policy on the environment; Relationship between trade and health.
- **FEDERICA ROSSI:** Policies for sustainable innovation in Emilia-Romagna; Innovation intermediaries, digitalization, and sustainability; How firms address the challenge of digital innovation and the sustainable transition; Public administrations and digital innovation: the case of crowdsourcing; Relationships between universities and the artistic and cultural sector.

- **SARA GIOVANNA MAURO:** Public budgeting and its innovation, e.g. participatory budgeting; gender budgeting; Performance measurement and management; Digitalization of public services; Smart city & sustainability.
- **MARINA VIGNOLA:** International strategic alliances; Knowledge transfer process between foreign firms; Innovation adoption in an international BtoB context; Internationalization strategies.

**Note 2:**

While submitting their supervisor's allocation request, students may apply for a company internship by filling the specific section of the application form and uploading their up-to-date and detailed **CV**. As far as the choice of the Company Internship Projects, students' decisions are to be considered as final and binding. The applying students will have an **interview** with the selected company/ies, which only if positive will lead to the internship activation. Moreover, the IM Thesis Committee will assign selected students to their **supervisor** on the basis of the activities performed during the internship. The Committee may therefore appoint as supervisor a Professor, who does not correspond to the students' first choices.

The list of the company internships offered by the Department is available in the online application form and different per allocation, in accordance with the partnering companies' needs.

**Note 3:**

Self-selected internships are **not** the preferred way to gain working experience.

**ONLY FOR EXTRA-EU STUDENTS:**

International students from non-European Union countries seeking to study in Europe, who do not speak Italian and cannot apply for curricular internships, can autonomously identified a company internship. This must be report duly in advance to Professor Elisa Martinelli and get authorization ([elisa.martinelli@unimore.it](mailto:elisa.martinelli@unimore.it)).

Students are authorized for extra-curricular internship only if the total number of credits to be earned exceeds **15 ECTS**.

In asking to be authorized, students are required to indicate: the company name, location, product sector, period, activities performed, assigned company department and tutor. In addition, in the same email, students have to send a proposed thesis project of 2 pages with the following information: context, aim, methodology, expected theoretical and managerial contribution.

These extra-EU students **must complete the online form to ask for a supervisor** and indicate in the form they have already identified a self-selected internships.

The IM Thesis Committee will assign these students to their supervisor only if the thesis project and activities performed during the internship are considered as valuable and coherent with the degree aims. The Committee may appoint as supervisor a Professor who does not correspond to the students' first choices.

**Note 4:**

In order to enter the supervisor allocation process, the form must be completed correctly (mandatory questions are marked with an asterisk). Students must check the information they have inserted and, if correct, press "Send" to finally submit their application.

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