



RESEARCH METHODS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING




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Objectives



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Course objectives

- Introduction to the world of research
- Preparation for the master thesis

Main deliverable : 10-12 pages report with:

- A short abstract (½ page)
- An introduction giving the background, context and motivation and general objective of the work (1-2 pages)
- A critical and structured state-of-the-art (2-3 pages)
- A clear and structured work plan (2-3 pages)
- A tentative schedule (1 page)
- A reference list (1-2 pages)



A template is provided (word or latex)

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BRUFACE regulations for the master thesis

Every Master's degree requires the fulfillment of a Master's thesis.

The Master's thesis consists of a personal and original manuscript demonstrating a student's ability to identify scientific or technological issues and to mobilize his/her knowledge, skills and competences into a logical and coherent scientific methodology. The Master's thesis may be carried out jointly by two students. In this case, the manuscript and the oral presentation must allow the jury to assess individual contributions.

The Master's thesis must be written in English for the students registered in the full English Master, in Dutch or English for the students registered in the Dutch Master and in French or English for the students registered in the French Master (for exceptional circumstances, refer to point j).

The length of the main body (without appendices) must be limited to 60 pages per student. Any appendices necessary for a detailed understanding of the content can be added.

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BRUFACE regulations for the master thesis

c. Subject, Title and Supervisor

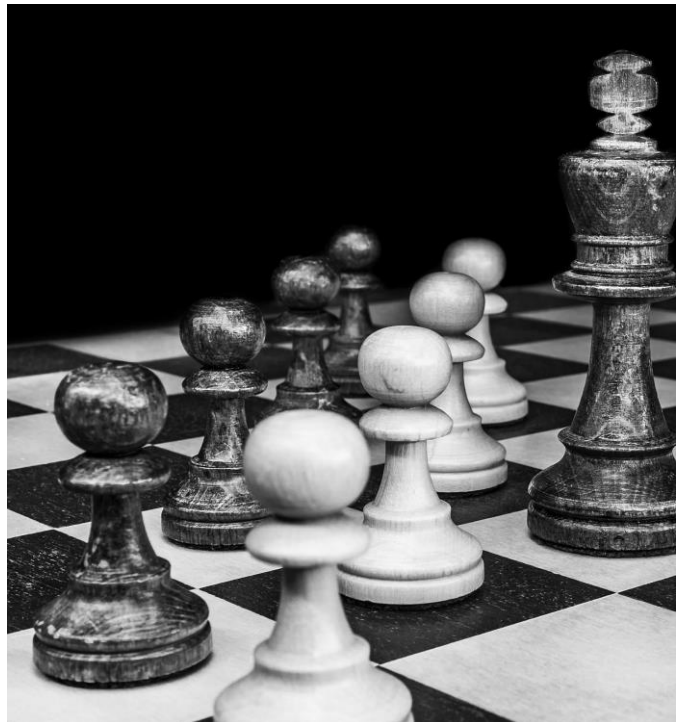
At the latest on Friday of the week following the proclamation of the 1st examination session of the 1st year of the Master's degree, all students must submit to the Faculty Secretariat a form (hard copy), signed by the supervisor, containing the subject, the endorsement of a supervisor, and if relevant, the name of the co-supervisor.

- RMCE is aimed at preparing for the master thesis
- The subject chosen for RMCE can be the one for the master thesis, but it is not compulsory (although strongly advised)



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Course organisation



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Course organisation

Six seminars from Feb 12 to March 19 covering the following topics :

- Introduction to research and RMCE objectives
- Extracting and structuring information from a set of references
→ Homework 1 (individual + group work)
- Making a state-of-the-art
→ Homework 2
- Building a work-plan and associating a timeline
- Guidelines for writing a clear report (Figures, References, ...)
- Making efficient scientific presentations



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Course organisation

Time line :

- list of master thesis topics available for the students : Feb 11, 2020
- choice of topics by the students : March 1st, 2020
- draft report submitted to the promotor : April 19, 2020
- evaluation of the report by the promotor : April 30, 2020
- meeting with the promotor to discuss the draft report : April 30-May 15
- final report : May 28, 2020



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Evaluation

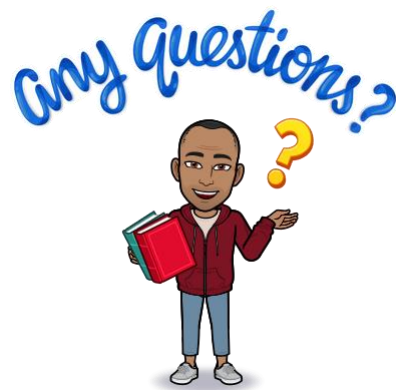
Evaluation :

Course work : 10 % (5% extracting information from a paper, 5% structuring a critical state-of-the-art)

Final report : 90% report evaluation (Promotor +Independent reviewer) + oral presentation in front of a mini-jury.



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