

The master's thesis is an independent analysis of a research question within the subfield of peace and conflict studies, within the broader field of political science. For a definition of peace and conflict studies, see for instance the definition provided by the [International Peace Science Society](#).

This individual research paper must include a clearly specified research question; methods grounded in political science, and pursue valid inferences. The thesis should adopt a publishable standard in terms of its design, substantive contribution and rigor.

The thesis enables students to independently explore an empirical or theoretical question with suitable political science methods. Students are responsible for defining a research question, selecting relevant methods and obtaining data in a rigorous and ethically sound manner. They must ensure that the content and format of the thesis are consistent with the current standards within political science research. Supervisors should be selected from the Department of Political Science, but external advisors may also be recruited.

[Getting started with your thesis](#)

Formal requirements

The length of the MA thesis is between 10,000 and 16,000 words (including bibliography and a short abstract). The thesis must include an appendix with information about data used in the analysis, including codebooks and/or equivalent explanatory note for qualitative source materials. This appendix should also contain a [data management plan](#). The appendix is not included in the word count.

Compulsory activities

Students must submit a literature review to their advisor (between 2000 and 3000 words), and situate their research question within this review, by 15 December.

Students must provide a 10-minute presentation of their thesis in an MA thesis workshop. Members of staff will serve as lead discussants, providing 5 minutes of comments in response to each student presentation. This workshop will be held in March.