

Master's Thesis

Code: 43003
ECTS Credits: 10

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313791 European Integration	OB	0	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Prerequisites

Those students who have not previously done a final degree project or similar, should contact the responsible of the subject at the beginning of the course, who will indicate the mandatory readings and activities.

Objectives and Contextualisation

All students have to write a Master thesis (TFM) related to one or more subjects learned during the course. The objective of the TFM is to apply the main aspects and topics of European integration and verify their importance through specific cases.

The TFM is an autonomous academic work that aims to deepen the analysis of the aspect addressed during the course.

The work is expected to serve to:

- develop a hypothesis or question of interest related to the contents of the modules studied, linking it with the existing academic debates;
- apply the criteria and techniques learned in the modules, either by carrying out own analyzes, or by examining the works of other authors.

Skills

- Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Define, design, plan and draw up an original unpublished research project, following the established academic and scientific parameters.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Seek out information in the scientific literature using appropriate channels, and use this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.
- Understand how EU legal and political measures are adopted, and how to interpret and apply them.
- Understand how the different EU policies are drawn up and how they interrelate.
- Understand the workings of EU institutions in order to work and collaborate with them.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
2. Apply the adoption of EU legal and political measures in the master's dissertation
3. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
4. Describe the content and the relationship between the EU policies to be analysed in the master's dissertation.
5. Draw up a research project in keeping with the established academic and scientific parameters.
6. Identify the different procedures and working practices and the organisation of European institutions, qualitatively assessing their capacities for action.
7. Identify the principal qualitative interdisciplinary methodologies used in research in the social sciences (law, economics, political science and international relations)
8. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
9. Seek out information in the scientific literature using appropriate channels, and use this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.
10. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Content

The subject of the Master's Thesis will be chosen by the student according to a list that will be provided at the beginning of the course. In the list there will be several current topics related to European integration, as well as the supervisors available for each of these topics.

Some possible topics, for example, could be:

Common Legal Space Module

- Immigration and the labor market in the era of globalization
- European citizenship
- Rights of establishment and corporate laws in the EU
- Law of the EU internal market
- Environmental law in the EU
- Cybersecurity in the EU
- Commercial law in the European Union
- Data protection in the EU
- The coordination in matters of information exchange between MS in tax matters

Governance and Economy Module

- The external dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- Multilevel governance in the EU
- Parliamentary control of EU agencies
- Public opinion and political participation in the elections of the EU
- Territorial cooperation in the EU
- European economic crisis

- Brexit
- EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement
- Towards a new relationship between the European Union and Asia
- EU cohesion policies
- Process of economic integration of the EU

EU External Relations Module

- The EU's energy policy
- Immigration and asylum in the EU
- The impact of the external dimension in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- Cooperation for EU-Latin America development
- International Insolvency Law
- Global data protection standards
- EU-US data transfers
- The external dimension of the AFSJ agencies
- Human rights in the EU and international law
- EU neighborhood policy
- Environmental policy at European and international level
- International military policy
- Global energy policy

The student must have at least 4 follow-up sessions with the assigned supervisor. In addition, several face-to-face sessions will be carried out during the course with the module coordinator in order to obtain an apprenticeship of the formal and structural elements necessary to carry out a correct TFM.

Methodology

At the beginning of the course students will be provided with a 20-page Guide that gives all the details about the preparation of the Master's Thesis (TFM). The reading of such guide is required by all students in order to write a proper dissertation in terms of format and content.

During the first semester, students will have access to a list of available topics and supervisors, and may choose their thematic preferences for research within the module (s) of specialization they are studying. In October - November the topics will be awarded to each student and they will be in charge of contacting their respective supervisor.

In the first interview with the supervisor, the follow-up conditions and timing for further meetings will be set, and the research topic will be specified. Throughout the periodic meetings that will be arranged between supervisor and student, the first will guide the second on their research and sources. Upon completion of the work by the student, the supervisor will prepare a brief report evaluating the final work of the student.

There will be several compulsory face-to-face sessions with the coordinator of the module for the learning of the procedure to be followed for the preparation and subsequent presentation of the TFM. The dates for those sessions will be specified at the beginning of the course.

In the month of June will take place the submission of the TFM, and the defenses will be conducted during the first week of July. The jury for the defense will be composed of two lecturers with a Doctor degree, who will be in charge of evaluating the TFM.

Please note that there is one single call for submitting and defending the TFMs, which will take place during the months of June and July. For students who have are visiting a foreign university within the conditions established by the UAB, there is the possibility to conduct the defense via videocall, as long as they can certify that they are still in the foreign university on the date of the defense.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classroom sessions	10	0.4	7, 8, 10
Type: Supervised			
Tutories	52	2.08	1, 9, 5, 8, 3, 10
Type: Autonomous			
Master thesis writing	188	7.52	2, 9, 5, 4, 6, 8, 3, 10

Evaluation

By the end of June, students must submit their Master thesis (TFM). For the evaluation of the TFM, time and effort dedicated to the different phases of the elaboration are considered. Students will need to study the topic of research in depth and collect bibliography on the subject. Likewise, they are expected to define a feasible question that will guide them throughout the work. Students need to show that they are capable of structuring the work, organize their ideas, find the available material, obtain and analyze data; write drafts and take care of the presentation and formal requirements in the final version.

The final grade takes into account the effort made by the student during the course and also the final result. It is not enough to summarize the material that has been collected and read, nor do a descriptive work of a specific period or event.

The work should be focused on a specific research question and address the importance of this issue in academic debates. This requires proof of:

- knowledge and critical understanding of academic debates on a topic;
- ability to lead the work towards a specific issue;
- ability to establish connections between the theory and concrete examples or cases in practice

If a student who has not submitted their work in due time, a re-enrollment in the TFM module the following course will be required.

Report of the supervisor

Once the TFM has been completed by the student, supervisors must prepare a report, commenting on the following issues:

- Capacity of analysis and synthesis
- Evolution in the learning process of the student
- Evaluation of bibliographic references and other sources of information
- Other comments

Composition and functioning of the defence tribunal

All TFMs will be defended publicly before a tribunal, composed of two professors with doctor degree linked to the field of European integration, who will be responsible for evaluating the work. The supervisor of the specific TFM cannot participate in the tribunal. Details about the day, time and members of the tribunal will be provided during the month of June, and the defences will take place during the first week of July. These dates and times are non-extendable.

Students must publicly present their work, on the assigned date and time, for a maximum of 15 minutes. The use of power point is not essential but encouraged. Once the exposition is over, all or some of the members of the Tribunal may ask questions and comments about the research. Once the defense of the work is concluded, the court will deliberate and transfer the final grade to the coordinator of the module.

Criteria for the evaluation of the TFM

Top score: 10 points

1. Coherence between the working hypothesis and the content of the research (maximum 3 points)
2. Conclusions (maximum 2 points)
3. Appropriate handling of bibliographical references, official documents, legal texts, jurisprudence and other materials (maximum 2 points)
4. Presentation and defense of the work before the tribunal (maximum 2 points)
5. Attendance to the sessions and submission of follow-up activities (maximum 1 point)

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Defence	20	0	0	4, 7, 3
Written part	80	0	0	1, 2, 9, 5, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10

Bibliography

- Bui, Yvonne N. (1998), *How to write a Master's thesis*, Sage Publications Inc, London.
- Cervera, Ángel y Salas, Miguel (1999), *Cómo se hace un trabajo escrito*, Laberinto, Madrid.
- Clanchy, John y Brigid Ballard (2000), *Cómo se hace un trabajo académico. Guía práctica para estudiantes universitarios*, Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza, Zaragoza.
- Cuerda Rieza, Antonio (2016), *Cum laude. Guía para realizar una tesis doctoral o un trabajo de fin de grado o máster en derecho*, Tecnos, Madrid.
- Hanké, Bob (2000), *Intelligent Research Design*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Montolío, Estrella (2009), *Manual práctico de escritura académica*, Ariel, Barcelona.

- Turabian, Kat (2007), *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers. Theses and Dissertations*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.