

Guideline for Industrial Master's Theses

Conditions for an industrial master's thesis

If the research question or problem posed in the Master's thesis originates from a company and the **company thus derives direct benefit** from the (scientific) answer to the question or solution to the problem, this Master's thesis is to be categorised as an industrial Master's thesis and the scientific supervision by a scientist from an institute of the TU Wien must be remunerated. "**Supervision**" means continuous support of the work from the very beginning, not only as pure quality control, but usually also through a scientific-technical contribution to the advancement of the work, which in the case of an industrial master's thesis benefits the project – and thus the company. In principle, §27(3) UG applies, according to which cost recovery is required. It must also be emphasised here that although the supervision of Master's theses is one of the duties of a university, **the university is not obliged to supervise a specific thesis on a specific topic proposed by a company.**

If the research question or problem of a Master's thesis arises from the interest in scientific knowledge and research of an institute of the TU Wien and if a company is involved as a partner for case studies, evaluation or for practical implementation (or similar), the direct benefit accrues to the institute and the student and it is therefore not an industrial Master's thesis within the context of these guidelines.

For an industrial Master's thesis, the student has no contractual relationship with the University (for the Master's thesis) and has an agreement with the company (work contract or employment relationship) under which the Master's thesis is completed. The rights of use for the results of the Master's thesis, which originate from the student, are regulated in this agreement. If the student is employed by the TU Wien, it is a research project of the TU Wien and is therefore subject to the Rectorate's guidelines on cost reimbursement and not an industrial Master's thesis. The supervision of an industrial Master's thesis will only be carried out by the Institute if the student receives appropriate remuneration from the company for his/her work.

Master's theses must be registered with the Dean's Office prior to commencement, stating the name of the university supervisor. This means that Master's theses must always be agreed in advance with the university supervisor and it is not possible to submit a completed thesis for assessment only.

Remuneration

For the supervision of an industrial Master's thesis, a written contract with the company is required and a fee of at least €4,000 must be paid to the institute. The remuneration for supervision is calculated on the basis of the current TU Wien staff rates. An invoice will be issued by the TU Wien to the company.

In return, the company receives:

- A scientific and technical contribution to the advancement of the work
- Non-exclusive use of expertise contributed by the university

Note that the remuneration of a Master's thesis does not have any influence on the assessment of the Master's thesis. In particular, the usability of the results by a company does not necessarily imply a positive assessment from a university perspective, just as a positive assessment from a university perspective does not necessarily imply an industrial benefit.

It is assumed that a service is provided to the company as part of the work and this service must be remunerated (otherwise this constitutes a breach of European state aid law!).

Restriction of Use

The primary task of a university and its researchers is scientific research, i.e. universities and scientists are measured by their research performance (publications, ...). A scientific publication as part of the Master's thesis emphasises the scientific character of the work.

The restriction of use of Master's theses is therefore discouraged. If the results of the Master's thesis may not be disclosed, this generally reduces the benefit of the Master's thesis for the institute or faculty. However, blocking the publication of the thesis is possible for a maximum period of one year – an additional compensation of €1,000 is expected in the event of such a restriction of use.