

Semester 4

Work placement and MSc. thesis

30 ECTS

Supervisors: 1 from each degree awarding university + 1 from the hosting institution

Lectures: 0h

Tutorials: 0h

Labs: 0h

Project: full-time

Autonomy : 0h

Lang. :



Objectives

The Master thesis will be written based on a 5 month work placement either in an industrial or applied research environment, research laboratory of a partner university on a joint topic or in an associate partner organisation or any other company or institution offering a research topic relevant to the student's specialization.

Keywords: work placement, master thesis, full-time research work, professionalization

Programme

The Semester 4 has to be set up based on the following key steps:

1. **Thesis proposal submission:** Students submit a thesis proposal outlining their research topic, objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes. **The proposal must be approved by local coordinators and supervisors from the degree-awarding institutions.**
2. **Independent research Work:** Students conduct independent research, guided by their supervisors, aligning with their M2 specialization, in the hosting institution.
3. **Progress reports:** Regular progress reports and meetings with supervisors to ensure the project is on track.
4. **Final thesis submission:** Completion and submission of the written thesis document fulfilling the requirements of each degree awarding institution.
5. **Thesis defence:** Public oral presentation and defence of the thesis in front of a joint jury, including Professors from partner institutions and invited members from associated academic or industrial partners.

Learning outcomes

- **Research competence:** Demonstrate the ability to independently conduct original research, formulate research questions, and apply appropriate methodologies.
- **Technical proficiency:** Utilize advanced technical skills and tools relevant to the chosen research topic, including experimental setups and numerical modelling.
- **Critical analysis:** Critically analyse research data, synthesize findings, and draw meaningful conclusions.
- **Communication skills:** Effectively communicate research findings through a well-structured written thesis and a clear, concise oral presentation.
- **Problem solving:** Develop and implement innovative solutions to complex problems in the field of study.
- **Collaboration:** Work collaboratively with supervisors, industry partners, and academic peers to achieve research goals.

Assessment

- **Final written thesis:** Assessment of the final written thesis document based on the quality of research, depth of analysis, clarity of presentation, and adherence to academic standards.
- **Thesis defence:** Evaluation of the oral presentation and defence, considering the student's ability to clearly present their research, answer questions effectively, and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of their topic.