



Universitat de Lleida

# DEGREE CURRICULUM **MASTER'S THESIS**

Coordination: ARQUE FUSTE, GLORIA

Academic year 2023-24

## Subject's general information

Subject name	MASTER'S THESIS			
Code	14815			
Semester	UNDEFINED			
Typology	Degree	Course	Character	Modality
	Double degree: Master in General Health Psychology and Master in Neuropsychology	2	COMPULSORY	Blended learning
	Master's Degree in Neuropsychology	1	COMPULSORY	Blended learning
Course number of credits (ECTS)	6			
Type of activity, credits, and groups	Activity type	TFM		
	Number of credits	6		
	Number of groups	1		
Coordination	ARQUE FUSTE, GLORIA			
Department	PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK			
Important information on data processing	Consult <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.			
Language	Spanish, Catalan, English			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
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## Learning objectives

The **master's thesis** (TFM) is a mandatory subject of the study plan. The general academic objective is for the students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the rest of the master's subjects to an original work. The TFM aims to develop to the highest level the program's competencies related to the ability to reflect, analyze, generate ideas, and produce content. For this reason, the following specific academic objectives must be achieved:

- Propose an original work based on the knowledge and skills acquired.
- Analyze and correctly use information sources in clinical neuropsychology or neuropsychological research.
- Correctly formulate objectives and hypotheses, collect and assess information and draw the most relevant

conclusions.

- Analyze results using statistical tools, interpret them, discuss them based on the literature and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Write and present with an expert mastery the foundations, procedures and techniques specific to Neuropsychology that you have used for your work.
- Use interpersonal communication skills to defend your work.
- Make appropriate use of information and communication technologies.

## Competences

### Basic skills:

CB6 Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or application of ideas, often in a research context.

CB7 Know how to apply the knowledge acquired and have the ability to solve problems in new or little-known environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to your area of study.

CB8 Being able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.

CB9 Know how to communicate their conclusions - and the ultimate knowledge and reasons that support them - to specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous way.

CB10 Possess the learning skills that allow them to continue studying in a way that will have to be largely self-directed or autonomous.

### General Competences:

CG1 Acquire, develop and implement a concept of integral health, where the biopsychosocial components of it have a place, according to the guidelines established by WHO.

CG2 Apply the fundamentals of bioethics and the method of deliberation in professional practice, adjusting its practice as a health professional to the provisions of Law 44/2003, of November 21, on the organization of health professions.

CG3 Analyze critically and use the sources of clinical information.

CG4 Use information and communication technologies in professional performance.

CG6 Develop your work from the perspective of quality and continuous improvement, with the necessary self-critical capacity for responsible professional performance.

CG7 Know how to communicate and communicate with other professionals, and master the skills necessary for teamwork and multidisciplinary groups.

CG8 Knowledge of the obligations and responsibilities of health personnel related to the confidentiality of information and the protection of personal data of patients.

### Specific Competences:

CE1 Show interpersonal communication and emotion management skills suitable for effective interaction with patients, family members and caregivers in the processes of problem identification, evaluation, diagnosis communication and psychological intervention and follow-up.

CE2 Write psychological reports appropriately to the recipients.

CE6 Know in depth the psychosocial factors associated with health and disease problems.

CE9 Plan, carry out and, where appropriate, supervise the process of psychological evaluation of human behavior and the psychological factors associated with health problems to establish their evaluation.

CE10 Design, develop and, where appropriate, supervise and evaluate psychological intervention plans and programs, based on the psychological evaluation and the concurrent individual and social variables in each case.

CE11 Carry out promotional and educational activities for individual and community psychological health.

## Subject contents

### Requirements

To register for the master's thesis, the student must have passed **all** the credits of the basic module and **85%** of the credits of the specific modules.

## Contents of the subject

The Master's Thesis (TFM) consists of the completion of an original work that involves the application of the knowledge acquired during the master's studies and demonstrates the achievement of transversal skills. The TFM might be about any subject related to the master's subjects, and it will be carried out under the direction or supervision of a Professor of the Master's in Neuropsychology. It will include tasks of research and bibliographic review, critical analysis of information, systematization and integration of information, preparation of a research design, writing and written and oral presentation.

The TFM will conclude with the preparation of a report on the individual work and its public defense before a committee appointed for this purpose. The written report and oral defense might be performed in Catalan, Spanish or English. The Master's Thesis defenses will be in-class.

## Methodology

The MU in Neuropsychology offers the possibility of carrying out a master's thesis (TFM) in one of the following modalities.

The student must choose the field of knowledge in which he wants to develop the TFM. The modalities of TFM are the following:

### A. Clinical modality

- Interventional program based on a clinical case

### B. Research modality

- Systematic review and/or meta-analysis
- Empirical study (research project with real data)
- Research project proposal

## A. Clinical modality

### A.1. Intervention program based on a clinical case

The TFM of the clinical modality consists of developing a proposal for a complete neuropsychological intervention program based on a clinical case with clear, specific, achievable and appropriate objectives for the population or patient.

This form of TFM must include the following sections:

- Abstract Spanish/Catalan and English (max 250 words) and 7-8 keywords.
- Index (optional index of tables, figures and acronyms)
- Introduction: general description of the pathology, etiology, prevalence, incidence and associated general symptomatology; describe the neuropsychological profile of the pathology; describe existing therapeutic approaches; describe the family and social impact of the pathology.
- Neuropsychological assessment: general objective and the specific objectives of the assessment; list and describe appropriate assessment tests to assess neuropsychological, emotional and behavioral deficits; assessment of the patient or group of patients (if real patients are available); present the results of the evaluation (expected or actual).

- Neuropsychological report (group or individual): clinical history, results of the neuropsychological assessment, conclusions of the neuropsychological assessment, recommendations (individual or group).
- Intervention proposal and complete elaboration of three intervention sessions. General objective and specific objectives of the intervention. Complete intervention plan: number of sessions, duration, objectives of each session, tasks to be used, process/cognitive domain to which they are directed; include a detailed schedule of the timing of the proposed tasks. Results obtained or expected from the intervention. Prepare three intervention sessions: one at the beginning of the intervention program, one in the middle of the process and one at the end of the program. Explain the rationale and objectives of each of the three sessions. Describe the expected state of the patient in each proposed session (evolution of the patient). Describe and exemplify the tasks that will be used in the rehabilitation sessions: complete elaboration and description of the tasks.
- References (APA format 7th edition).
- Attachments (if necessary).

## **B. Research modality**

### **B.1 Systematic review and/or meta-analysis**

The method of systematic review and/or meta-analysis consists of a search of the scientific literature on a specific topic and the integration of all the information in a theoretical (systematic review) and/or empirical (meta-analysis) form following the PRISMA declaration. The rules of the PRISMA methodology (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org)) will be followed, and in the case of observational studies the international rules MOOSE (Meta-analysis of Observational Studies) will be followed in Epidemiology, <http://statswrite.eu/pdf/MOOSE%20Statement.pdf>).

This form of TFM must include the following sections:

- Abstract Spanish/Catalan and English (max 250 words) and 7-8 keywords.
  - Index (optional index of tables, figures and acronyms).
  - Introduction (include justification, objectives and hypotheses).
  - Method (include the search protocol, eligibility criteria, information sources, information analysis process and additional analyzes performed).
  - Results (include study selection, study characteristics, studies' risk of bias analyses, individual study results, summary of results, analysis results).
  - Discussion (summary of the evidence, limitations, future work perspectives and conclusions).
  - References (7th edition APA format).
  - Attachments (if necessary).

### **B.2 Empirical study (research project with real data)**

The empirical study must contemplate the approach of a scientific problem, the collection of data, the statistical treatment of the data and the discussion of results. The data can be obtained by the student, provided by the professors or obtained from public databases on the Internet. The origin of the data must be clearly described and in case of using data provided by third parties, the written authorization of these will be necessary and, where appropriate, the commitment of the student to use this data only for the TFM. The data confidentiality document, CEIm protocol and example of informed consent must be attached.

This form of TFM must include the following sections:

- Abstract Spanish/Catalan and English (max 250 words) and 7-8 keywords.
- Index (optional index of tables, figures and acronyms)
- Introduction (include objectives and hypotheses).

- Method (participants, measures, materials, procedure, data analysis).
- Results.
- Discussion (conclusions, limitations, future perspectives of the work).
- Bibliographic references (APA 7th edition format).
- Attachments (if necessary).

## B.3 Research project proposal

The research project proposal consists of the formulation of a research hypothesis, a review of the existing bibliography, an experimental design appropriate to the proposed objectives, a description of the expected results and an assessment of the feasibility and impact of the proposed project.

This form of TFM must include the following sections:

- Abstract Spanish/Catalan and English (max 250 words) and 7-8 keywords.
- Index (optional index of tables, figures and acronyms).
- Introduction: theoretical description of the bibliography relevant to the research question raised, hypotheses and objectives.
- Method: study design and variables, sample description and sample size calculation, materials used, ethical aspects, statistical analysis, work plan/schedule.
- Expected results: description of the expected results applying the proposed methodology.
- Discussion: viability of the proposed project, limitations, scientific impact, social impact, economic impact, conclusions.
- Bibliographic references (APA 7th edition format).
- Attachments (if necessary).

In any of the modalities, the report will have a **maximum length of 10,000 words** (including bibliographic references). The presentation format must comply with APA format 7th edition.

The following information will be included on the front page of the TFM:

- Title of the TFM.
- Name and surname of the author and tutor
- Affiliations.
- Place and date.

The final version of the TFM must have the formal "sight and approval" of the TFM tutor, giving his/her consent for the student to defend the work presented. Compliance will be communicated by e-mail through the virtual campus from the TFM tutor to the coordinator of the TFM subject.

In accordance with FEPTS regulations, students must present the TFM through the Virtual Campus in the Activities section. The file must be in pdf format.

The electronic copy of the TFM will be reviewed using anti-plagiarism software. The result of this anti-plagiarism review must be less than 15%, otherwise, the TFM will be graded "suspense 0".

## Development plan

**Choice of topic and assignment of tutors.** The student will choose the subject by carrying out the proposed activity, before February 9, 2024. Tutors will be assigned based on the students' academic results and the choice

of TFM subject.

**Preparation of the TFM.** The student will prepare the TFM and the TFM tutor will guide the student throughout the entire process of preparing the work and will follow up thoroughly.

**Deposit.** The memory must be deposited in the Activities section of the Virtual Campus before **11:55 p.m. on June 4, 2024**, in order to perform the oral defense of the TFM before June 28, 2024.

The work presented outside this deadline may be defended before September 20, 2024. The report must be deposited in the Virtual Campus Activities section before **11:55 p.m. on September 5 2024**.

In case of not having been defended on this date, it will be considered "Not presented", this being the qualification that will appear in the minutes.

The student will have to register again (2024-2025 registration) and can retake the subject in the corresponding semester, or he can request permission in writing from the Dean to be able to defend the work in Extraordinary Convocation (enrolment 2024-2025), the deadline will be between November 4 and 29, 2024 (exact dates to be specified).

**Exhibition and defense of the TFM.** The date, time and place of the oral defense of the TFM will be determined by the Evaluation Committee and will be communicated to the students, at least seven days before the day set for the oral defense.

The oral and public presentation will be 15-20 minutes maximum and the debate with the court will be around 10-15 minutes. The total time for the defense of each TFM should be approximately 30 minutes.

The Evaluation Committee will be made up of 2 professors from the University Master's in Neuropsychology. The TFM tutor will not be part of the Evaluation Committee: a teacher will act as president of the committee, and a teacher will act as a member.

## Evaluation

The evaluation will be carried out by the TFM tutor and two other professors as external evaluators, so the student's final grade for the TFM subject will be determined by the grades of the three different members.

	Tutor	Evaluation Committee	Total
Preparation process	20%	0%	20%
Final Master Thesis	30%	20%	50%
Master thesis defense	0%	30%	30%
Total	50%	50%	100%

Thus, the TFM tutor's evaluation of the student's total grade will be 50% (30% based on the work preparation process, 20% based on the written final version of the TFM). The assessment of the evaluation committee on the student's final grade will be 50% (20% based on the final TFM and 30% based on the presentation and oral defense of the TFM).

The final grade of the subject is the average of the grades issued by three Professors involved in the evaluation of the each TFM. This will consist of a numerical grade between 5 - 10 (with one decimal), corresponding to Aprobado, Notable, Excelente o Matrícula de Honor.

## Bibliography

- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: the Official Guide to APA Style. Seventh edition. Washington, D.C: American Psychological Association, 2020. Link: <https://biblioguies.udl.cat/ld.php?>



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- Rodríguez Moreno, M. L., Llanes Ordóñez, J., Burguet i Arfelis, M., Buxarrais Estrada, M. R., Esteban Bara, F., Jarauta Borrascas, B., ... & Solé Català, M. (2013). Cómo elaborar, tutorizar y evaluar un trabajo de fin de máster. Link: [https://www.aqu.cat/doc/doc\\_26365669\\_1.pdf](https://www.aqu.cat/doc/doc_26365669_1.pdf)

- [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org)

- <http://statswrite.eu/pdf/MOOSE%20Statement.pdf>

- Formació Biblioteca UdL: <https://udl-cat.libcal.com/event/3902143>

- Recursos Biblioteca UdL: <https://biblioguies.udl.cat/mendeley> / <https://biblioguies.udl.cat/revisions-sistemiques>