



Guidelines for completing the master's final project (TFM)

Academic Coordination Commission
Master's Degree in Research in Specific Didactics
Faculty of Teacher Training, University of Valencia

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PRESENTATION

A Master's Thesis for the Master's in Research in Specific Didactics is an introductory research project in one of the areas of knowledge covered in this master's program. As a research project, it must reflect one of the forms and styles of research in each of these areas; as an introductory project, it must demonstrate the knowledge required to conduct research.

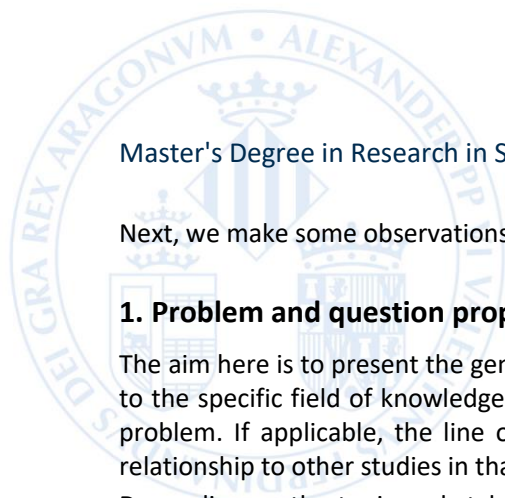
STRUCTURE OF THE TFM

The Master's Thesis must present the research conducted in an organized manner. The components of the research vary depending on the subject, the theoretical framework used to approach the study, and the research design. In this regard, the role of the tutor is essential in guiding the development of the work, contextualized within the characteristics of each area of knowledge. For guidance, we provide an outline of the sections that must be adapted to the specifics of each research project:

- Front page
- Acknowledgments (optional)
- Abstract (in 3 languages. Length between 150 and 250 words) and keywords (maximum 5)
- Table of contents (may also include tables and figures)
- Introduction, with a brief justification of the importance of the work's theme and the problems and issues proposed as the object of study
- Theoretical framework
- Objectives of the study (and hypotheses, if applicable)
- Methodological framework
- Results and discussion
- Conclusions, didactic implications, limitations of the study and prospective
- References
- Annexes

It is recommended that the final manuscript be of an appropriate length to allow for precise coverage of the content without redundancies, with a font size of 12 points and line spacing of 1.5 points. References must be properly cited using APA 7th edition standards.

The deposit procedure will be carried out in the public calls for applications posted on the research master's website, following the established protocol.



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Next, we make some observations about the parts of this work:

1. Problem and question proposed as an object of study

The aim here is to present the general problem surrounding the work, including the following aspects: relevance to the specific field of knowledge and justification of the question addressed as the object of study within that problem. If applicable, the line of research within which the work falls should be indicated, emphasizing its relationship to other studies in that line of research.

Depending on the topic and style of the research, it would be advisable to formulate the problem posed as a question or a set of questions, although it can also be presented as a situation being explored or specific hypotheses being tested. Hypotheses can also be presented in a separate section, after the Theoretical Framework, which outlines the study's objectives.

2. Theoretical framework

This section presents the theoretical foundations of the research based on previous research on the topic addressed. This is possible through a dialogue with other publications by using duly referenced citations at the end of the paper. The citations allow you to substantiate your own argument and compare previous studies. It is advisable to proceed from the most general to the most specific, from the most international to the most local, from the oldest to the most recent to narrow down the topic of interest. The theoretical framework should support the problem under investigation, the concepts and approaches at stake, and all aspects that are particularly relevant. Whether developed prior to the empirical work or simultaneously, it should include the concepts, theories, and main results derived from previous research that have emerged and are necessary for subsequent interpretation of the results.

3. Objectives of the study

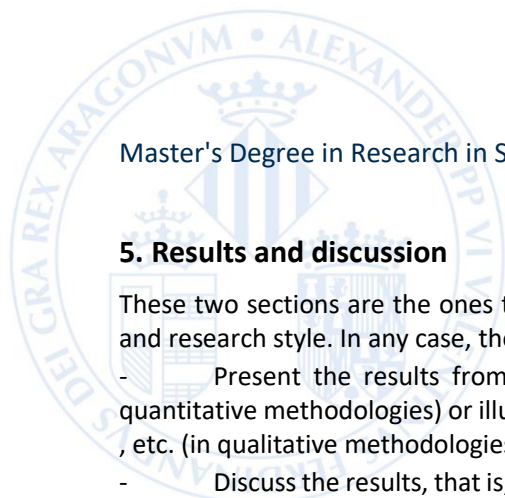
This section includes the research objectives. These can be formulated in the form of research questions and hypotheses (depending on the methodology, one form or another will usually be used), if they have not been previously included in the first section. It is also advisable to determine a main objective and as many secondary objectives as necessary to specify what is desired to achieve in each phase of the empirical work. When defining these objectives, it is recommended that they be limited to the context and consistent with the problem or research question posed, and that excessively broad or ambiguous objectives be avoided.

4. Methodological framework

This section presents the methodology (or methodologies, if applicable) used in the work. The methodology must be appropriate to the theoretical framework and the question posed as the object of study. It is necessary to include a description of the type of research, the paradigm within which it is situated and the research design chosen, as well as the materials or instruments used (e.g., questionnaires, interviews, or field diaries), the procedure followed to obtain the data and conduct the research as a whole, along with the ethical considerations taken into account.

It should also include details of the characteristics of the sample participating in the study (e.g., a natural group, specific individuals); the historical text(s) being analyzed; the teaching sequences, teaching situations, teaching units, or teaching materials being used; and a specific proposal for teaching intervention.

Finally, you must include an explanation of the type of data analysis and the criteria used in said analysis.



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5. Results and discussion

These two sections are the ones that allow for the most variations depending on the topic, field of knowledge, and research style. In any case, they are:

- Present the results from the data analysis, in a written form, and supported by tables, graphs (in quantitative methodologies) or illustrated by quotes from the informants, documents, photographs, photo essays, etc. (in qualitative methodologies)
- Discuss the results, that is, interpret and compare them with the results of previous research and relevant theoretical approaches, for which it is common to use references to relevant studies.

Ultimately, it involves arguing the answer(s) to the problem under investigation based on the data obtained. In any case, the results and their interpretation must be consistent with the theoretical and methodological framework.

6. Conclusions, limitations, prospective and didactic implications

The conclusions must address the problem or issue being studied as precisely as possible, or, where appropriate, account for unexpected findings or unforeseen events.

Likewise, the limitations of the research (usually primarily methodological) will be identified, and a prospective approach will be proposed. In this regard, it is useful to refer to problems or questions that have not been resolved or that have arisen during the study and that, therefore, open up prospects for future research that can deepen and continue the research conducted or open up new ones derived from the one studied.

Finally, in some works it is pertinent to include a subsection indicating the educational or didactic implications of the results of the study.

7. References

This section must include all complete references to books, book chapters, articles, computer reviews, works of art, etc., that have been mentioned in the text of the work. A thorough review is required to ensure that all references appearing throughout the work are included at the end of this References section, and all those in this section must have been cited in the text.

The format of the references must be the same for all of them and follow the APA 7th Edition standards.

8. Annexes

Appendices may include any material used in the research (such as teaching materials, questionnaires, applets, historical text fragments, etc.) or produced during the research and constituting raw or semi-processed data (such as student responses, video recordings, transcripts of interviews or student performances, screenshots, etc.). Everything included in the appendices must have been referenced in the work. Appendices must be numbered for easy reference, and an index of the appendices must be included in the work.