UNIVERSITY OF TORINO
Department of Life Science and System Biology
Master in Cellular and Molecular Biology

Rules to prepare the Master thesis

The Master thesis is a dissertation written in English, describing an original scientific research developed by the candidate. It must be organized according to the rules accepted by the international scientific community, describing in details and conformingly to the scientific standard: the state of the art of the selected topic, the scientific problem addressed, the experimental approach adopted, the methodology used and the results obtained. The thesis must include a discussion of the results and a reference section.

The results presented in the Master thesis **must be original**. This means that they should not be published, unless the candidate is among the authors. However, there is the possibility that the candidate joins the laboratory when the final steps of a project are ongoing, or when the paper is already under revision, which means to meet a specific deadline. Should this occur, the situation must be clearly explained in the text, for example in the 'Aim of the study' section (see below). Issues about this point should be reported to the President of the Master.

The text must be original as well. In this regard, the candidate cannot copy and paste sections, including Tables and Figures, from published research papers and/or reviews. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and can be easily detected by appropriate softwares. Since paper publication involves that the authors leave the copyright to the publisher, the cut&paste procedure is forbidden also when the source is own (such as a paper authored by the tutor or by the candidate herself/himself).

Style

Page format	Upper and Lower Edge 2,5 **-** Left 2,5 - Right 2
Font	Text, Tables and Legends **pt 12** Arial, Verdana, Times or TNRoman. References **pt 10**.
Spaceline	Text, Tables and Legends **1,5**. Abstract and References **1**.
Page number	pages must be sequentially numbered.

Organization

1) Cover (green). It must indicate the following heading: University of Torino, Master in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Master thesis, candidate name and surname.

2) Firts page. Follow the format reported below. Candidate and Tutor must add their original signature.

3) Index.

4) Abstract. Positioned after the Index. Max length 600 words (1 page, spaceline 1).

5) Introduction. This part must provide a background synthetic, but sufficient to allow the reader to understand the topic and the results presented in the Master thesis without the need to access previously published papers. The references included should be limited to the most significant. **Max length: 11.000 words (25 pages, including Figures)**.

6) Aim of the study. This section must summarize the working hypothesis and the rationale of the study. **Max length: 800 word (2 pages)**.

7) Materials and methods. This section should report the necessary information to repeat the experimental procedure used to perform the experiments describe in the thesis. Most common techniques, such as culture media, buffers, protein and nucleic acid quantification, can be simply indicated citing a reference. A detailed description is required for innovative techniques or reagents or other materials. **Max length: 8.800 words (20 pages)**.

8) Results. This part of the thesis must describe the results and the experiments performed for their achievements, with particular emphasis on the underlying rationale. Results can be presented in the text, as Figures or Tables, both embedded in the text. **Max length: 13.200 words (30 pages)**.

9) Discussion. This section must provide an interpretation of the results obtained, taking into consideration the state of the art and previously published papers on the topic. Results and points already debated in the introduction should not be reported again here. **Max length: 4.400 words (10 pages)**.

10) References. Format example:

Gustems, M., Borst, E., Benedict, C.A., Perez, C., Messerle, M., Ghazal, P., and Angulo A. (2006) Regulation of the transcription and replication cycle of human cytomegalovirus is insensitive to genetic elimination of the cognate NF-κB binding sites in the enhancer. *J. Virol*. 80: 9899-9904.

References must be listed in alphabetical order (first author). The following format must be used to cite references in the text: (Gustems et al., 2006).

There is not a maximum number, however references should be limited to the most relevant on the topic.

11) Figures. Must be embedded in the text (irrespectively of the section where they appear), possibly as JPEG, GIFF o EPS files. Figures must be numbered subsequently starting from those present in the Introduction, if any. Legend to Figures illustrating the results must be self-explanatory, without however repeating what reported in the Materials and Method section.

Cover and first page fac-simile

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MASTER THESIS IN
CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
Class LM-6

Title

Candidate **Tutor**

Dr. **Prof.**

ACADEMIC YEAR ……-……