



## M.Sc. Research Paper – Guidelines for Completion

### M.Sc. Research Project Requirement

The M.Sc. Seminar and M.Sc. Research Paper will usually be taken after the six regular courses have been completed, but students may certainly complete the seminar and project earlier if he/she wishes. The Master's Seminar is to take place prior to beginning the Master's research work and should be completed before the beginning of the graduate student's last term. The Research Paper is an experimental project to be completed **during one term (or equivalent) of full-time research in the laboratory of a Centre faculty member**. A written report is required, and an open, public seminar based on the content of the report will be presented.

### Guidelines for Completion

#### **Choice of research advisor and advisory committee**

- ✓ Before starting this project, the student must choose a research advisor in an appropriate sub-discipline of Chemistry or Biochemistry. Any member of GWC<sup>2</sup>, on the campus at which you are registered, can act as a supervisor.
- ✓ The research advisor will provide laboratory facilities to the student to allow completion of an experimental project of about three months duration. During this time, the student is expected to carry out research on a full-time basis. The nature of the project will be agreed on jointly by the student and the supervisor. Financial support may be available (but is not guaranteed) to a student carrying out an experimental project.

#### **Contacting Universities Prior to start of Paper**

- ✓ When you are prepared to begin your M.Sc. Research Paper it will be necessary to contact the appropriate Chemistry Graduate Office

**University of Guelph:** 519 824 4120 Ext. 53044 or [chemgrad@uoguelph.ca](mailto:chemgrad@uoguelph.ca)

**University of Waterloo:** 519-888-4567 ext. 35086 or [cjvanesc@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cjvanesc@uwaterloo.ca)

#### **Format of the M.Sc. Research Paper**

- ✓ The research paper should be written in the format of a typical M.Sc. thesis, including a literature review, experimental methods, results, discussion, and references. The expectation is that the length of the research paper will be between 80-100 pages. Thesis regulations can be found on the graduate studies website at:

**University of Guelph:** <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2016-2017/degreq/degreq-mamengmsc-thesis.shtml>

**University of Waterloo:** <https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/thesis>

- ✓ Emphasis should be placed on both the scientific content of the paper, and the quality of the presentation. It is suggested that the body of the chapters/text be divided into several major sections. Minor subsections within this structure are also helpful in organizing the material. A reference format in current use for theses or journal publications should be used. Students should refer to existing theses for guidance on format and layout, which may vary within each department on both campuses. University guidelines on thesis regulations should be consulted. The research advisor may also be a useful source of information. Students should contact the Director if they require clarification on major issues.

#### **Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)**

- ✓ Please review the following website regarding academic integrity (plagiarism):

**University of Guelph:** [www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca](http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca)

**University of Waterloo:** <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

### Research Paper Presentation

- ✓ A public presentation based on the content of the paper will be presented to the Chair (Chem\*794(0) Chair), the Research Advisor and Committee Member. Students should follow the guidelines for a M.Sc. thesis defense in terms of length and format. For the **University of Guelph**, presentations may be scheduled with that semester's M.Sc. and Ph.D. seminars, at the discretion of the course coordinator.

### Assessment

- ✓ The Master's Research Paper committee (the Research Advisor and Committee Member) will read the project report and attend the seminar, and will provide grades of satisfactory/unsatisfactory for both. If the student's performance is judged unsatisfactory in either area, s/he will be given the opportunity to repeat the seminar presentation or submit a revised report within 6 months. The project requirements will be deemed to be completed when both the seminar and report are judged to be satisfactory, and three spiral bound copies of the report are submitted to the Graphic Services for binding. The cost of binding will be borne by the student. The three bound copies will be distributed to the student, the supervisor, and the department.

### Due Dates

- ✓ The examining committee will meet with the student at the beginning of the semester to establish a timetable for completion of the research paper within that semester. The survey should be handed in to the committee at least two weeks before the scheduled date of the seminar.