

The LACOM MA DISSERTATION

Characteristics of the dissertation

The dissertation consists in the writing of a paper in a foreign language of the student's choice, focused either on the analysis of experiences during an internship, or on a topic related to a field chosen by the student, after consulting with his/her supervisor and co-supervisor. The student will collect empirical data, as well as review state-of-the-art literature on the topic and carry out an original and critical analysis of it.

Defence of the dissertation

The defence of the dissertation will last approximately 15-20 minutes and it will concern the content of the written dissertation prepared by the student under the guidance of a supervising professor and a co-supervisor.

The viva can be in one of the foreign languages studied. It will highlight:

- the ability of the student to apply the acquired knowledge, by critically and appropriately selecting and interpreting the data and the topics analysed;
- the ability to discuss coherently and cohesively.

The Examining Committee for the dissertation is composed of at least five members. The methods and criteria for assessment are:

- an adequate bibliography;
- ability to select and interpret data;
- relevance of the arguments brought to support the thesis;
- ability to organise concepts and ideas autonomously and critically, by formulating individual and original comments on the topics.

Regulation for the assignment of the dissertation supervisor and co-supervisor

A Committee will nominate a dissertation supervisor and co-supervisor to each student who has submitted the application form by pre-established dates. The assignment is based on the student's interests, his/her study plan and the exams taken.

Students can choose from 5 graduation sessions during the academic year. They are allowed to apply for the assignment of a supervisor and co-supervisor only if they have obtained 57 credits (those who wish to graduate in the July session of the 2nd year), 60 credits in the October and December sessions, and 66 credits in the February and April sessions. Once the said credits have been obtained, each student must submit an application to the Committee ONLY in the periods indicated below at the following email address: domandetesilacom@unimore.it

The Committee will collect the student's self-certification on the following deadlines (5 dates each calendar year). The Committee will collect and nominate a supervisor and co-supervisor as follows:

Application deadline	Graduation session
end of January	July
mid-March	October
mid-May	December
beginning of September	February
Beginning of November	April

Students will be informed about their supervisor and co-supervisor as follows:

Supervisor/co-supervisor assignment	Graduation session
mid-February	July
end of March	October

end of May	December
end of September	February
end of November	April

Application for supervisor/co-supervisor assignment

The application that each student must submit to the Committee must contain:

- First name, family name, student matriculation number, e-mail;
- Session in which the student intends to graduate;
- Self-certification of the exams taken, downloaded from the student's Esse3 personal profile, under the section "Certificates";
- Study plan, also including the exams taken as elective courses;
- Languages studied (including a third, if applicable);
- Indication of the 3 macro-areas (economic, legal, linguistic) in order of preference;
- For the linguistic macro-area, the indication of 3 languages in order of preference (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese);
- Indication of 2-3 topics of interest for each macro-area so that the Committee is able to nominate a supervisor and co-supervisor appropriately.

After the application has been submitted, the Committee will assign a supervisor and co-supervisor to the student. The assignment of supervisor and co-supervisor will be notified via the MOODLE platform as soon as the procedures have been completed (<https://moodle.unimore.it/course/view.php?id=6996>)

The student must then proceed to:

- contact the supervisor and co-supervisor within 15 days to better define the field of study and the topic of the dissertation;
- fill in the graduation application form and submit it to the **Director of the Degree Course** at least 5 months before the session in which the student intends to graduate;
- upload an almost complete version of the dissertation on the MoReThesis platform at least 21 days before the graduation session. This file must already contain all the chapters of the dissertation (although they can be revised), whereas the content table, abstracts, introduction, conclusions, bibliography can be added up to three days prior to the graduation.

The dissertations will be assigned to supervisors in such a way as to guarantee a fair and equal distribution among the professors for each graduation session. Whenever a student expresses a preference for disciplines in which the professors have already reached the maximum number of supervised dissertations, the Committee is entitled to assign a supervisor covering other disciplines included in the student's study plan. The Committee keeps track of the number of students assigned to each professor for each academic year and the graduation procedure should be concluded by the session after the one initially chosen by the student. Students can submit a new application if they have not discussed the dissertation during this time frame.

Writing style

Please note that the length of the dissertation should not be less than 32,000 words (including footnotes and bibliography). Here are some characteristics:

- Times New Roman font;
- Font size: 12 points;
- Line spacing: not exceeding 1.5;
- Page size: A4;
- Margins: not less than 2 and not more than 3cm;
- Except for dissertations in the field of Italian linguistics, all dissertations must be written in a foreign language chosen among the ones studied during the degree programme.