

MSc Research Practice

Contents

The MSc Research Practice is a research project under supervision of a Wageningen university supervisor that replaces the internship in the programme of the student (only possible for students of MSc programmes that allow students to choose for a Research Practice). The Research Practice should differ from a regular thesis in the following way:

- The Research Practice has additional learning outcomes related to career preparation and personal development.
- The Research Practice has additional assessment criteria related to the above mentioned additional learning outcomes.

Language of instruction

- English

Learning outcomes

After successful completion of the Research Practice the student is able to carry out *independently* the different aspects of a research project:

1. Justify career interests and ambitions in relationship to the Research Practice project and reflect on professional ambitions and capabilities;
2. Develop a research plan, including the wider scientific context, identification of the knowledge gap, formulation of research questions, aims and objectives, and design of the project including approach, methods and tools;
3. Collect, select and process data, using the approach, methods and tools described in the research plan;
4. Analyse and synthesize the data, in order to answer the research questions;
5. Formulate answers to the research questions that are supported by the research outcomes, pay attention to potential limitations, and relate the outcomes to the wider scientific context;
6. Report on the research both in writing and in oral presentation;
7. Work in compliance with academic codes of conduct, and with proper management of time and resources;
8. Make use of input and feedback for executing the research project as well as provide feedback to others;
9. Realize personal learning outcomes (which could include domain-specific skills).

Ad 9) Students formulate a minimum of two *specific personal learning outcomes* in consultation and agreement with their supervisor.

Activities

- Research proposal/planning: the student should prepare by reading literature related to the project, formulating research question/hypothesis and proposing approaches and methods;
- Carrying out the research project: the student should execute research activities and document findings and sources carefully;
- Feedback: the student should deal with feedback from students and staff on proposal, research results and report and provide other students with feedback;
- Report: the student is required to write two reports on the Research Practice: a research report and a reflection report. The research should result in a comprehensive, consistent and concise report. In principle the report should contain all the elements of a full scientific paper in the discipline of the chair group. The reflection report relates a.o. to the student's career interests and ambitions and the personal learning goals;
- Colloquium: the student is required to present major research findings to other MSc students and staff members of the Chair Group;
- Oral examination: the final oral examination is a discussion with the examiner a second reviewer and in some cases, a supervisor outside the chair group.

Examination

For the assessment, reviewers/examiners use the MSc Research Practice Form. The average grade for each category (research competence, thesis report, colloquium, examination) should be at least 5.5 and reflection report must be sufficient for a pass.