

Dear students:

Welcome to the Chair of Sustainable Urban Design and Mobility!

Guidelines for undertaking master's project at the Chair of Sustainable Urban Design and Mobility (updated 12/2024)

We would be delighted if you decide to write your Master's thesis at the Chair of Sustainable Urban Development and Mobility (NSM). The following faculty members are generally available as thesis advisers:

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hendrik Jansen,
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- Nepo Schrade, M.Sc.
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To ensure research quality and integrity, and to enable effective advising, please take into account the following guidelines:

What we offer

We offer individual advising appointments for the supervision of the Masters' theses. Once you have chosen a topic, please write a short exposé with the following content:

- Background/relevance of the topic
- Research aims and objectives
- Methodological concept
- Target audience and output of the project
- Proposed timeline

Please send this exposé to your adviser by e-mail before the first meeting. This then forms the basis for the first consultation. If necessary, the first meeting can serve to adjust and finalise the topic or questions and the corresponding methodology. As a starting point, a selection of possible topics can be found on the NSM website.

Individual advising appointments

The scope of the individual advising appointments depends on stage of the project, but should generally not exceed two meetings. Possible topics/focal points for the appointments can be:

- Topic or focus of the thesis, formulation of aims and objectives, devising an appropriate methodology
- Discussion of the theoretical/conceptual approach
- Discussion and reflection of the empirical results/findings
- For design projects: feedback on the urban design concept and visualisation
- Individual challenges on a case-by-case basis

What we expect

The NSM team is looking for above-average commitment on a professional and methodological level as well as the willingness to deal with a scientific topic in an interdisciplinary and creative way. We consider the ability to communicate and independently initiate research impacts beyond the university to be particularly important. The content and language of the thesis should be written in such a way that it is comprehensible for readers with knowledge of basic technical terms and contexts, but thematic peculiarities should be explained. The work should follow the rules and standards of scientific work (see e.g. [Guidelines](#), [Notes](#) and [Rules](#) of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences on Scientific Work). Urban design projects should be developed on the basis of a creative and well-founded spatial concept, which in turn is based on a comprehensive analysis of the site and is explicated and contextualised by the theoretical part of the work.

The layout of the thesis is up to you, as we consider the creation of a design that is appropriate to the topic as a core learning goal. In the case of urban design projects, individual requirements apply with regard to the number of pages and the scope of the project – these must be discussed with your adviser in advance.

The topic you are working on should be related to the teaching and research profile of the NSM faculty members (see [NSM homepage](#)).

Master's theses are evaluated according to the following criteria:

Choice of topic	Rationale and relevance of the topic, degree of difficulty, originality, addressing research gaps	5 %
Introduction	Aims and objectives, overall methodological concept	10 %
Structural logic/outline	Plausibility, clarity	10 %
Theory	Fitting theoretical framework, terminology, research, literature evaluation, analysis	20 %
Empiricism	Problem-specific approach, coherence, creativity, methodology	25 %
Transferability, interpretation	Derivation of the questions guiding the work, comprehensibility, research, literature evaluation, analysis	20 %
Articulation; Formatting	style, redundancies; output quality, layout	10 %

For urban design projects, the above weighting for the textual part is halved. The remaining 50% of the assessment is based on the design project and is comprised of the following criteria:

Analysis	Relevance of analysis, completeness	5 %
Representation	Suitable forms of presentation, scales, layout	10 %
Concept	Problem-specific concept, coherence, appropriateness, creativity, comprehensibility	15 %
Implementation	Quality of urban design proposals	20 %