

PART II

Dissertation designing

SECTION 6

Plan and stages of the dissertation

6. PLAN AND STAGES OF THE DISSERTATION

6.1. Introduction

The 4th semester of the Master's program is devoted to the completion of a final project, which will culminate in the design and writing of a dissertation.

How to structure and write a Master's dissertation?

The Master's dissertation consists of several parts:

- Cover or title page.
- Acknowledgements and dedications (optional).
- Abstract.
- Keywords.
- Table of contents.
- List of abbreviations (optional).
- List of figures (optional).
- List of tables (optional).
- Introduction.
- Body of the dissertation (chapters I, II).
- Conclusion.
- Bibliography.
- Appendices.

6.2. Cover page

The dissertation cover page provides readers with information on the student profile and the subject. It includes:

- University logo
- Diploma prepared
- Thesis title
- Names of student(s)
- Names of supervisor(s)
- Names of jury members
- Date of presentation and academic year.

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Projet de fin d'études pour l'Obtention du Diplôme de
Master II en ELECTROTECHNIQUE
Option :
Thème

.....
.....

Réalisé par :

Proposé par :

Nom(s) des étudiants

Nom de l'encadrant

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6.3. Dedications

This is an optional page that represents a tribute the student wishes to pay to one or more people.

6.4. Acknowledgements

The student would like to thank all the people who helped him/her to carry out the project and write the dissertation (supervisor, teaching staff, teachers, friends, family, etc.).

6.5. Abstract

Every dissertation must contain an abstract, which must be well written and provide information on the theoretical background to the project, the study objectives, the methodology and the main results.

The abstract is often followed by a few key words relating to the content of the dissertation.

An English version of the abstract and key words, and another in Arabic, are desirable.

6.6. Table of contents

The table of contents shows the plan of the dissertation, containing all the titles and subtitles of all the chapters and parts of the dissertation, as well as the corresponding page number. The table of contents gives the reader an overview of the dissertation, and makes it easy to find the pages corresponding to each part.

The table of contents should not exceed two pages (otherwise, subheadings should be removed). The abstract and table of contents itself should not be mentioned in the table of contents, and the bibliography should be included.

6.7. List of abbreviations

The list of abbreviations is optional, but is designed to make the document easier to read. It provides a list of abbreviations (acronyms) for important terms in the document, arranged in alphabetical order.

6.8. List of figures and tables

These are numbered lists of figures (diagrams, graphs or illustrations) and tables, accompanied by their pagination. Although these lists are not compulsory, they are recommended to make it easier for the reader to find his way around.

6.9. Introduction

The introduction is the starting point of a dissertation, and should not exceed two pages. It presents the subject, the problem and the plan. It should give the reader an overall understanding of the dissertation.

Its purpose is to introduce the subject, attract the reader's attention, prove the scientific relevance of the study and, finally, announce the different parts of the dissertation.

6.10. Development (dissertation chapters)

The development presents the theoretical part, the methodology, the analyses and discussions of the results obtained.

It is divided into three or four chapters.

- **State of the art**

The state of the art offers a synthesis of the relevant readings. It is structured from the most general to the most specific. It introduces all the knowledge the reader needs to understand the context of the work (previous work) and the limits of current knowledge.

- **Theory**

This chapter should contain the theoretical elements of the study (the theoretical aspect, general equations...).

- **Methodology-Hypotheses-Results-Discussion and interpretation**

This part, which is presented in one or two chapters, includes a presentation of the method used, a justification of the choice of this method and its description. In addition, it must contain the hypotheses considered or the experimental conditions, the analysis of the results, their interpretation and the comparison of these results with other studies and previous results.

6.11. Conclusion

The conclusion is the final part of the dissertation, summarizing the main findings, emphasizing the contribution of the research to knowledge, identifying its limits and constraints, and concluding with an outlook.

The conclusion of a dissertation is built in response to the introduction. It must begin by reintroducing the problem, then present the most important and relevant results, with a dose of self-criticism by presenting the contributions and limits of the research, and finally, open up future avenues of research.

6.12. Bibliography

The bibliography is placed after the main text and before the appendices. It is written according to precise indications (chapter 5).

It is an important part of the dissertation. All works cited in the body of the dissertation must be referenced in the bibliography and, conversely, all works cited in the bibliography must be mentioned in the body of the dissertation.

6.13. Appendices

Appendices should contain data that are useful, but may make the dissertation too long or interrupt its flow. They are not necessary for reading the dissertation. They are optional additions.

Appendices are numbered: AppendixA, AppendixB...

