

# Master Thesis

As a rule, Master students choose the subject for their final Master thesis on their own, proving that they are capable of finding and defining relevant themes in current landscape architecture independently. If you want to start your Master thesis at the LAT under the supervision of Professor Weilacher, you do not necessarily have to deal with industrial landscapes. All interesting subjects related to landscape architecture are welcome to be discussed.

Please follow these steps:

A. **Contact** professor Weilacher early enough and discuss with him, if your chosen **subject** is generally suited for a final thesis and if he has appropriate capacities to work with you. Good projects are always related to a relevant current theoretical question in international landscape architecture.

B. Check out, if you have fulfilled all **administrative requirements** to start your thesis (minimum credits etc.) For this purpose, send your transcript of records as a PDF to the Architecture Dean's Office (Julie Strickland; julie.strickland@tum.de) for clarification of module credit. Generally, students must have earned 60 ECTS in 2 semesters to be admitted to the master's thesis. In special cases, 3 semesters (90 ECTS) must be completed. Please consult the FPSO which is valid for you!

C. Write an **exposé** about your project and send it early enough before your next meeting to the professor (minimum 1 week in advance). This exposé is the basis for the start of your thesis. It should consist of the following parts:

1. Introduction to your project
2. Portrait of your site in words, images and plans
3. Precise formulation of the key problem for your thesis, with 3 to 5 important key assumptions (hypotheses!)
4. Precise aim of your work (very important!)
5. Proposal of table of content for the written report
6. Time schedule (weeks)
7. Proposal of the amount of deliverables of the final work (as precisely as possible: how many plans? formats? scales? model? report? etc. etc.)
8. Literature suggestions
9. Projects finished so far in your study

The exposé is important for you in order to plan your workload and to set a clear aim for your work. As soon as the professor has agreed upon your exposé, you have to officially register your thesis and within 6 months you have to finish your final project.

**The length of the master's thesis** should be at least 60.000 and at most 120.000 characters including spaces (number of characters without abstract/summary). Pay attention to the formal requirements of correct citation of literature and source references for figures (see citation guide LAT \*).

D. After the discussion and acceptance of the exposé, please register your thesis with title and starting date in the Office of the Dean of Studies for Architecture (Julie Strickland; julie.strickland@tum.de) and hand over a copy of the registration document to the supervisor or to his secretary. At this point, your second supervisor should already be determined. This is usually a research assistant of the chair.

... and at the end of your thesis:

E. Please **hand in** all printed original plans and your written report at the closing date. Hand in your written report in 3 copies: 1 copy for the library and 2 copies for your supervisors. The size of the report should be in A4 portrait format. Please use the layout template **of** LAT\*. All final plans should be included in the report as miniatures. You should also include photos of your model in the report. You should bring your model to the final presentation. Please save **all files** (all plans in original size, as miniature versions -DIN A3- as jpg, the original file of the report, and all as PDF) in a storage medium (CD/USB-Stick). Write a summary of your project (max. 2 pages A4) and save it as a separate PDF-file in the same storage medium. The summary/abstract should also be part of the report.

F. Arrange a date for your **final presentation** with professor Weilacher and make sure this date is also registered in the calendar at the LAT secretary.

G. The **final presentation** of your work takes 60 minutes: **30 minutes to present** your project and 30 minutes for the discussion with the audience. Prepare a professional presentation performance.

H. After your final presentation and discussion, you will have the chance to **talk personally** about your work with your supervisors and you will get your **final grade**.

I. Each year, the architecture faculty exhibits the submitted master's theses in an **annual publication** (online or as a pdf publication). Various details and illustrations are required for this, see <https://www.ar.tum.de/publikationen/abschlussarbeiten/>

After successful completion of your thesis, please send these documents to [agenda@ar.tum.de](mailto:agenda@ar.tum.de) and in cc to your second supervisor.

In addition, master theses at LAT will also be listed on the **website of the chair** and a summary of the thesis on one A4 page will be made available for download. Please prepare this summary according to the layout template\* **and send it to your second supervisor** (scientific assistant of the chair).

If you should have any further questions, please contact directly Professor Dr. Udo Weilacher.

**Good luck with your final project!**