



School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Term One 2022

CVEN9451/9452/9453 A/B/C Masters Coursework Thesis

COURSE DETAILS

Units of Credit	4 + 4 + 4
Contact hours	as agreed with Supervisor
Course Coordinator	Dr Daniel O'Shea email: d.oshea@unsw.edu.au office: Room 108 in the Civil Engineering Building (H20)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is in three parts. Thesis A is undertaken in the first term of enrolment. Thesis A is a prerequisite for Thesis B and Thesis B is a prerequisite for Thesis C.

By default, students must ordinarily take Masters Thesis A, B and C in each consecutive term.

With School permission, students may request to take Masters Thesis A in the first term then Masters B + C together in the second term. This option is strictly limited only to students who can demonstrate the ability to progress. Further details are provided in the ASSESSMENT section below.

Students may be exempted of completing a Master's Coursework Thesis if they have previously completed a recognised Thesis in their undergraduate studies or further postgraduate studies. See further details [\(by clicking on the link\)](#).

HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF A RESEARCH THESIS TOPIC

Option 2. If you are not employed or your employer is not willing to nominate a topic and co-supervise the thesis, you can browse online the selection of available topics and contact potential supervisors within the school. The link is provided below (to work it needs to be cut and pasted in your browser):

<https://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/info-about/student-intranet/honours>

Note: It is unlikely that this list is fully up to date and comprehensive – it is strongly advised that individual students approach School teaching staff in area(s) of potential interest, to explore the range of possible thesis topics that may be available.

2. ORGANISE ENROLMENT:

- Discuss your selection with potential topic supervisors.
- Once you have a Supervisor and topic, your Supervisor will need to sign the Thesis Application form, which can be downloaded from this link [Masters Project Thesis Form](#). Then upload the signed form to the Student Intranet here: <https://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/info-about/student-intranet/submit-thesis-application-form%20>
- Please note that you will only be able to complete course enrolment for CVEN9451. The School will complete your class registration once you've submitted your topic nomination form to the Student Intranet

Note that The Nucleus are not collecting the hard copy Master Thesis application forms.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF YOU CANNOT FIND A SUPERVISOR BY THE START OF TERM OF MASTERS THESIS A, THEN YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENROL/CONTINUE IN THE COURSE AND IT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED FROM YOUR ENROLMENTS. IF YOU HAVE CONTACTED THE COURSE COORDINATOR TO ASSIST YOU FINDING A SUPERVISOR, THEN YOU WILL REMAIN ENROLLED IN THE COURSE.

The Masters Coursework Thesis Project is an individual project in which each student works under the guidance of a nominated member of the academic staff (Supervisor). A co-supervisor may also be nominated depending on the set up of the project (e.g. an employer could be a co-supervisor in an external thesis project). The work may involve laboratory experiments, field or industry-based investigations, design applications or theoretical research.

The Masters Coursework Thesis aims to provide students with the opportunity to:

- Undertake and execute an academic research project;
- Produce a self-contained research thesis, which may be understood and used by others with technical background knowledge in the same discipline area as the thesis topic, and may potentially be suitable for publication;

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WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A THESIS?

Program 8621: All students in the 8621 program must complete the thesis project in their final year of study (or alternatively enrol in CVEN9050/9051 (Masters Practice Project).

Program 8338: All students in the 8338 program must complete the thesis project in their final year of study (or alternatively enrol in CVEN9050/9051 (Masters Practice Project). Students who have not completed a recognised Thesis in their undergraduate studies or further postgraduate studies are required to complete a Thesis in their Masters Coursework program. If you are unsure if you have completed one, please contact [The Nucleus](#) so an assessment can be made on whether you are eligible for thesis exemption or advanced standing.

WHAT IS A MASTERS COURSEWORK THESIS?

That depends quite a bit on your field of study. However, all Theses have at least two things in common:

- They are based on students' original research.
- They take the form of a written report, which presents the findings of that research

WHY WRITE AN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS?

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In the event of an unsatisfactory assessment in Masters Thesis A or Masters Thesis B, a student must submit a show cause. A plan of future action to improve student performance must be prepared and agreed upon by both the supervisor and course coordinator before progress to Masters Thesis B or Masters Thesis C is allowed. Failure to receive the progress assessment by the due date will result in the student results being withheld and/or failure.

MASTERS THESIS A SUBMISSIONS

- x **Component A1 submission** should include: Statement of the Problem and draft Literature Review.
- x **Component A2 submission** should include: More detailed, revised and improved Introduction (Statement of the problem), Literature Review.

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- x **Lunchtime Workshops:** - Course Orientation (week 1),
- Literature Review Workshop (week 2)

MASTERS THESIS B SUBMISSIONS

- x **Component B1 submission:** Progress Report – this will take the form of an improved and extended A2 submission, including a detailed Thesis Outline (chapter and sub-headings), Research Methodology and preliminary Results and Analyses.
- x **Lunchtime Workshop:** Thesis Writing Workshop (week 3)

MASTERS THESIS C SUBMISSIONS

1.	Seminar Abstract	Week 7	5 % of Final Mark
2.	Research Seminar/Video Presentation	Week 10 k	10 % of Final Mark
3.	Thesis Submission	Week 11	70 % of Final Mark

With Supervisor and

Fail in Thesis B & C (when taken simultaneously) – Students must re-

MASTERS RESEARCH THESIS A COURSE PROGRAM

Week	Milestones	Suggested Activities	Assessment/Workshops
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MASTERS RESEARCH THESIS B COURSE PROGRAM

Week	Milestones	Suggested Activities	Assessment/Workshops
1	Receive review of Component		

MASTERS RESEARCH THESIS C COURSE PROGRAM

Week	Milestones	Suggested Activities	Assessment/Workshops
1		Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data.	
2		Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data.	
3	Complete remaining research work.	Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data.	
4	Complete analysis of results.	Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data. Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	CENSUS DATE: 27/02/2022, 11.59pm
5		Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
6	Prepare draft of Seminar Abstract	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
7	Receive supervisor feedback on Seminar Abstract	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	Seminar Abstract Due – submit by 4.00 pm on Friday. See Moodle for submission requirements.
8	Receive supervisor feedback on thesis	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance. Prepare seminar with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
9	Receive supervisor feedback on thesis	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance. Prepare seminar with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
10	Receive supervisor feedback on thesis	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance. Prepare seminar with Supervisor(s) guidance.	Presentations Due – submit by 4.00 pm on Friday. See Moodle for submission requirements .
11	Complete thesis		Thesis due – Submit on -line by 4.00 pm on Friday. See Moodle for submission requirements.

