



## **Regulations for degree theses - students enrolled from the academic year 2023-24 onwards - Qualifying degree**

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 3 of Law No. 163 of 8 November 2021, the final examination for the single-cycle Master's Degree in Veterinary Medicine (class LM-42) qualifies graduates to practise the profession of Veterinary Surgeon.

The final examination, comprising the Practical Assessment Test (PAT - internship activity) and the discussion of the thesis, which takes place in public and involves the acquisition of 6 ECTS.

The PAT is structured in three parts, one for each professional stream: companion animals, horses and exotic animals clinics; veterinary public health and food safety; animal production and livestock medicine. The PAT evaluating committee is composed of at least six members. Half of the members of the evaluating committee are University professors appointed by the Department to which the course belongs, one of whom acts as chair, and the other half are practitioners with proven experience, including in the field of training, appointed by the relevant local representatives of the Order of Veterinarians. To pass the PAT, students must obtain a pass mark, which does not contribute to the final degree mark, and proceed to the thesis defence.

To be admitted to the thesis discussion, students must have obtained 294 credits by passing the exams (compulsory training activities, optional training activities, language skills) and the PAT (internship activities).

### **The degree thesis**

The thesis, written under the guidance of a supervisor, is based on participation in experimental projects or current, comprehensive and in-depth bibliographic research on topics in Veterinary Medicine; it is structured according to the guidelines for scientific publications and may be written in Italian or English.

It is generally written at a University departmental facility, but there is the possibility that the experimental activity may be carried out at public or private facilities, subject to compliance with the safety and insurance regulations established by the relevant facilities of the University and the host institution.

### **The supervisor, co-supervisor and second examiner**

The supervisor may be a university professor who is an expert in one of the subjects covered by the study plan.

The thesis topic is assigned by the supervisor in agreement with the graduate student. The duties of co-supervisor may be assigned to another professor, researcher, doctoral student or research fellow on the direct recommendation of the supervisor, when deemed appropriate. The assignment of co-supervisor duties to external experts is at the discretion of the supervisor.



Each thesis must have a second examiner, identified from among the official professors of the University. Their role is to determine the candidate's personal contribution to the preparation of the thesis and to express an evaluation of the thesis.

### **The committee**

The committee is composed of no fewer than five and no more than eleven members identified from among the official professors of the University, at least one of whom must be a full professor. The chair of the committee is, as a rule, the full professor with the most seniority.

### **Final mark**

The final degree mark is expressed as a percentage out of 110 and is calculated as the sum of:

- a) the weighted average (WA) of the marks obtained in the examinations, including educational activities chosen independently by the student, weighted by the corresponding credits (ECTS) and converted to a percentage out of 110, according to the following formula:  $WA = (\sum \text{exam mark} \times \text{ECTS} / \sum \text{ECTS}) \times 110 / 30$ . The value obtained is rounded down (0-4) or up (5-9).
- b) the mark awarded for the final examination.

The final exam mark is the result of the sum of the marks obtained according to a marking scheme that considers the assessment of the committee, the supervisor and the co-supervisor on the thesis and its presentation, and the evaluation of the student's academic career. In the assessment of the thesis, no distinction is made between the maximum score attributable to a compilation thesis and an experimental thesis.

The rules that the commission must follow for the attribution of the final examination score were approved by the Veterinary Medicine Teaching Board on 12 February 2024.

A maximum of 10 points are assigned to the final examination, divided as follows:

### **Assessment of the thesis (maximum 8 points)**

\*Supervisor: 6 points

<b>Personal contribution of the candidate</b>	0	1	2	3
Autonomy and ability to organise the own work				
<b>Personal commitment of the candidate</b>	0	1	2	3
Motivation and ability in bibliographic and/or experimental research work				



**\*Second supervisor: 2 points**

<b>Formal correctness and bibliographic analysis. Discussion of results.</b> Use of scientific vocabulary, relevant bibliographic sources, up to date and correctly cited. Ability to identify objectives consistent with the working hypothesis, to process data and discuss results	0	1	2	3
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**Assessment of the discussion (maximum 2 points)**

**\*Committee**

<b>Communicative effectiveness. Mastery of the topic.</b> Organisation and accuracy of the presentation within the time limit. Clarity of presentation and ability to answer the questions of the Committee	0	1	2	3
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**Bonus component, for career (maximum 2 points)**

1 point for participation in internationalisation programmes

1 point for degree obtained on time

1 point for voluntary work at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Experimental Teaching Zootechnical Unit and departmental laboratories for at least 200 hours, which must be certified by teaching staff. The total number of hours can be achieved either by attending a single institution or by splitting them across different areas. Volunteering opportunities will be published on the Course of Study (CoS) website. Volunteering is associated with the forms available on the CoS website.

- a) availability of CoS teaching staff to accept student volunteers, as well as a summary programme of related activities
- b) request by students to participate in volunteering
- c) certification of the activity signed by the teaching staff

The Academic Service is responsible for collecting the certification(s) at the time of delivery of the internship booklet/degree thesis request.

Honours are awarded on the recommendation of the chair, with the unanimous opinion of the committee, to theses whose final score reaches 110/110.

9 May 2024