

# Information for writing the thesis (Section de Biologie)

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## What the Faculty rules say:

### **Art. G 9 – Obtention d'une thèse sur publications.**

1. Un ensemble de publications originales et d'un intérêt suffisant, reconnues comme telles par un jury de thèse, peut constituer la base d'un travail de doctorat. Ces publications ne sauraient, en aucun cas, représenter à elles seules la thèse elle-même. Elles seront toujours accompagnées d'un texte substantiel destiné à les présenter d'une manière cohérente et à justifier la pertinence de leur choix. Des développements ne figurant pas dans les textes eux-mêmes sont attendus.

(meaning that papers or results chapters that resemble papers can be included but that they must be complemented as described below).

## **Absolute requirements (imposed by the Faculty):**

- The thesis must have the format "in-octavo" (15.5 x 22.5 cm) or A4. Exceptionally the Dean can give the authorization for a different format.
- Layout and wording of title page must be according to accompanying document ("titlepage.doc").
- The first two pages inside the cover must be the title page (again) and a copy of the imprimatur.
- If the thesis is not written in French, it must include an Abstract in French of 1-2 pages.

## **Suggestions regarding the form (how Faculty rules can be interpreted):**

- Abstract of one to two pages (in the language of the thesis). For example, if you write the thesis in English, include an abstract in English and another one in French.
- Introduction (minimum of 5500 words [~270 words double-spaced = 1 page]): this includes a general but thorough introduction of the field and the topic of the thesis; it contains background information, status of research (with appropriate and comprehensive reference to the literature), and an explicit statement of the goals of the thesis. As mentioned, all statements must be appropriately cited (and don't hesitate to cite your own publications wherever adequate). The same holds true if you use published figures or schemes.

- Results: this section can include both published and unpublished results.
  - Published papers (and reviews): include a "cover page" with a few introductory sentences that put this chapter in context. These may also state what the personal contributions of the author of the thesis were.
  - Papers that are not published yet: same as published papers. Can be included as manuscripts.
  - Unpublished results: they can be presented in the form of publications (with the usual subdivisions), but alternate formats are also possible as long as experimental details are explicit, and data are presented and interpreted appropriately. Large sets of data or experimental details can be presented in Appendices.
  - Issues with property rights: the thesis should be considered a publication and as such is subjected to the same rules. For example, it is not acceptable to withhold data that are essential for the understanding or evaluation of the thesis. Also, be careful with allowing online access to the thesis when it contains material protected by copyrights that you do not own (e.g. whole publications or individual figures from publications).
- General discussion (minimum of 2700 words [~270 words double-spaced = 1 page]): there must be a Discussion of the entire thesis. It should put the different parts in perspective, show how it all fits together and into the current knowledge, and what it all means. Again, do not forget citations.
- References: there is no imposed format, but clearly some are better than others.
- Acknowledgements: not compulsory but obviously one of the most frequently read sections of any thesis..... (this section can of course also go at the beginning of the thesis).
- Appendices: if there are large data sets, think about including them as a CD or placing them on a password-protected web site.

### **Final comment:**

- It is your thesis jury that determines the contents and, within some of the above constraints, the form of your thesis.