

Notes on Master-Thesis (physics930, astro960) and (Pre)Modules physics910, -920 or astro940, -950, respectively

Usually on your own initiative you will approach a “lecturer” (i.e. Professor, Privatdozent at the University of Bonn) to ask for a proposal for the subject of a Master’s thesis. In this respect you may also ask the student advisors (Prof. Dr. Manuel Drees, Prof. Dr. P. Schneider) or the chairman of the examination board (Prof. Dr. H. Schmieden) for assistance.

Requirements (**PO 2014**) to start with modules physics910, -920 or astro940, -950 are: Successful completion of all required 60 credit points from the first year of the Master’s study course.

As soon as you have decided upon a subject, please fill in the application which you have to deliver personally, electronically or by letter post to the examination office. The form must have reached the office prior (generally four weeks before you wish to start, a shorter request should be well founded) to beginning “Scientific Exploration of the Master’s thesis topic” – because you must not start without the permission of the examination board.

In contrast to the modules of the first academic year you cannot register yourself in BASIS for the above mentioned 3 modules. This will be done by the examination office as soon as the head of the examination board has approved the suggested topic of your Master’s thesis. You can then find in BASIS the official permission including the supervisor, as well as the beginning and end of the 12 months period. The 3 modules “Scientific Exploration of the Master’s Thesis Topic”, “Methods and Project Planning” and “Master’s Thesis” together should be accomplished **within** 12 months. Six months of that time are reserved for the module “Master’s Thesis” (physics930 or astro960), including oral presentation (Master Colloquium).

Upon a justified written request, the head of the examination board may allow an extension of the latter time of up to 6 weeks. The application for the extension with relevant justification has to be presented to Professor Schmieden (by email to: pa@physik.uni-bonn.de) 4 weeks before the official submission date, at the latest.

Starting date of the three modules is usually the date that you specified in the application form. The “topic” should be considered as a working title, the period (from start to finish) for work on the three modules is, however, stringent: It is 12 months at most. If the thesis is not handed in to the examination board in time it is rated as “failed”.

The Master’s thesis has to be submitted in three written copies to the examination board in due time. That means: Either you hand in three copies in person at the examination office during normal opening hours or you send them by post, the date of the postmark then applies (address: Prüfungsamt Physik, Nußallee 12, 53115 Bonn).

Alternatively, it is possible to submit your thesis by email as a PDF file.

If your submission date is a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, the submission deadline is the following working day.

The layout of the thesis is free (fonts, formats, figures, graphics etc.). The thesis must be bound (no spiral binding, not in sheets).

IMPORTANT: University seals and logos must not be used in the work; these are the property of the university and their use is considered misuse

On the cover sheet of the thesis the following text must be written:

Title, von (your complete name), Masterarbeit in Physik or Astrophysik, angefertigt im Institut (name of Institute), vorgelegt der Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Bonn, month and year of submission (e.g. January 2017).

On the second page of your Master-Thesis you write the signed statement

“I hereby declare that the work presented here was formulated by myself and that no sources or tools other than those cited were used”

as well as your supervisors:

1. Supervisor: Complete name (first supervisor, person who defined subject)
2. Supervisor: Complete name (second supervisor)

(Examples for both pages are on: <https://www.physik-astro.uni-bonn.de/studies-de/mitteilungen-des-pruefungsamtes> and in the LaTeX templates: <https://www.pi.uni-bonn.de/lehre/uni-bonn-thesis>)

Note: At least one of the supervisors has to be a professor of the University of Bonn. Usually both supervisors are professors of the Universität Bonn or one is professor and the other one is “Privatdozent/in” of the University of Bonn. In all other cases please ask the examination board, because it also has to approve the supervisors.

Towards the end of your master’s thesis work the results have to be presented (Master Colloquium) in a seminar. Whether this presentation precedes the submission of the thesis or not is irrelevant. It must however be done within the assigned period of work, i.e. before the time limit of physics930, astro960 respectively. For the oral presentation please print the form “Master Colloquium”, fill in the final title of your Master’s thesis and let the referees acknowledge by their signature that the talk has been given. After that please hand in the form to the examination office.