

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MASTER'S THESIS 25/26 MASTER'S DEGREE IN DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT

To obtain your Master's Degree, you must write and defend your Master's Thesis. The study plan for the Master's in Democracy and Government includes two courses that are directly related to the Master's Thesis: "Research Project / Internship" (18 ECTS) and "Master's Thesis" (6 ECTS). This document provides information on the content and structure of both courses.

1. THE COURSE "RESEARCH PROJECT / INTERNSHIP"

For the course "Research Project / Internship" (18 ECTS), which begins in the second semester, students can choose between the research track or the internship track. **At the beginning of October, the Master's coordinator will ask you to indicate which track you wish to follow.**

a. When you choose the Research track:

- During the second semester, students will conduct a research project and write a research report as part of their Master's Thesis, following the **guidelines available on the Moodle page** and with the **support of an academic supervisor from the Department**.
- When you indicate in October that you wish to pursue the research track, you will also be asked to provide a **broad outline of the topic** you would like to study. This information helps the coordinator assign you an appropriate supervisor.
- The academic supervisor will be assigned at the beginning of the second semester by the Master's coordinator. If students prefer a specific supervisor, they should inform the coordinator by email before January. **Please note that while we will try to accommodate preferences, we cannot guarantee that you will be assigned to your supervisor of choice.**
- Once your supervisor has been assigned, **you should contact her/him as soon as possible to plan and organize your research project and the supervision process.**
- Throughout the second semester, you are expected to **submit partial deliverables**, which will be evaluated and discussed with your academic supervisor during meetings. **Please note that our faculty members do not provide supervision during July and August.**
- After submitting your research report, the academic supervisor will evaluate its quality and send both qualitative comments and a final grade to the Master's coordination. The final grade from the academic supervisor will constitute 100% of your evaluation.
- **This track is strongly recommended for students who are considering a PhD, pursuing an academic career, or planning to engage in applied research as a consultant or analyst.**

b. When you choose the Internship track:

- Students will carry out their internship during the second semester and write an internship report as part of their Master's Thesis, following the **guidelines available on the Moodle page**.
- The internship is conducted under the supervision of both a professional tutor from the institution and an academic tutor from the Department. The

professional tutor is assigned by the institution or organization where you will complete your internship, while the academic tutor is assigned by the Master's coordinator in January.

- Once your academic tutor has been assigned and once you have started your internship, **you should contact her/him as soon as possible to plan and organize the internship and tutorization process.**
- For more information regarding the internship organization, please refer to the details available on the Master's [website](#) under “Internship” or “Prácticas.”
- Throughout the second semester, you are expected to submit partial deliverables, which will be evaluated and discussed with the academic tutor during meetings. **Please note that our faculty members do not provide supervision during July and August.**
- After submitting your internship report, the academic tutor will evaluate its quality, providing qualitative comments and a grade, which will be sent to the Master's coordination. Meanwhile, the professional tutor will evaluate the quality of the internship (but not the report) upon completion, submitting an evaluation sheet with qualitative comments and a grade to the Master's coordination. The grade from the academic supervisor accounts for 50% of the overall evaluation, while the grade from the professional tutor makes up the remaining 50%.

For more information (such as the course guide, formal criteria, evaluation standards, and grading), please refer to the Moodle page for this course.

2. THE COURSE “MASTER’S THESIS”

The second course related to the Master's Thesis is called “Master's Thesis” (6 ECTS), and it focuses on the public defense of your Master's Thesis before an evaluation committee composed of two members from the Department.

The dates for the defense of the Master's Thesis (either in July or September) can be found in the Academic Calendar, which is published on the Master's [website](#). If you choose to defend your Master's Thesis in September, please note that our faculty members do not provide supervision during July and August.

The evaluation committee will assign a grade based on the quality of both the defense of the Master's Thesis and the content of the written research or internship report (100%). The committee will submit an evaluation sheet with qualitative comments and a grade to the Master's coordination.

For more information (such as the course guide, formal criteria, evaluation standards, composition of the evaluation committee, and grading), please refer to the Moodle page for this course.

3. THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR OR ACADEMIC TUTOR

Research Track:

The supervisor's role is to help the student develop their research question, structure their Master's Thesis, and provide guidance on its direction and content. Each student can expect a minimum of three substantive meetings with their academic supervisor. Attendance at the supervisory meetings is mandatory. Supervisory meetings may take place either face-to-face or online. Additional meetings are

at the discretion of the supervisor. Students are responsible for reaching out to their academic supervisor to plan these meetings.

Internship Track:

The tutor's role is to help the student develop their Internship Report. Each student can expect a minimum of three substantive meetings with their academic tutor. Attendance at the supervisory meetings is mandatory. Supervisory meetings may take place either face-to-face or online. Additional meetings are at the discretion of the tutor. Students must reach out to their academic tutor directly to arrange these meetings.