



Biosphere-Atmosphere
Interaction

Writing your thesis in the Biosphere-Atmosphere Interaction group

Finding a topic

If you are interested in writing your thesis with us, please contact us early on so that we can plan together in the best possible way. You can find topics for a thesis on our website. However, you are also welcome to come to us with your own topic, and we will then see together if it is realistic. If you have your own topic, please consider what the main research question could be and why this topic is important before we meet for the first time. Please send us an email to arrange an initial meeting.

Registering your thesis

Your thesis must be registered at the Examination Office. Before registering your thesis, you must have a title (in German and English) and a second examiner. You can choose the second examiner yourself and then discuss your choice with us. Once you have officially registered with the Examination Office, you must submit your thesis within the specified time frame. Therefore, only register your thesis once you are sure that you can complete it within that time frame. Contact the relevant examination offices for information on the length of the processing period and the registration forms. Please let us know your submission date after you have successfully registered.

Writing your thesis

A thesis is divided into several phases. The most important phase is the conception phase, in which you plan your work (reading literature), write an outline, and create a schedule. At this stage, it is very important that you seek feedback from us to ensure that everything stays on schedule. The next phase is data collection or literature research. It is also important that you contact us if you encounter any problems during this phase. The final phase is the evaluation of the results and the writing of the thesis. We are happy to look at the results with you and read drafts of your thesis.

There are different types of theses. In a systematic literature review, you look at existing literature and summarize it. When analysing a data set, which you can also collect yourself, you evaluate data. From the very beginning, we will support you in writing your thesis in such a way that it could also be published. If the results are suitable for scientific publication, we will also support you in this process. A scientific publication can be very useful for your future career.

If you write your thesis with us, you will become part of our working group. This means that you can participate in our monthly group meetings to get to know the working group. The meetings always take place on Thursdays, and we will inform you of the exact dates.

Scope of the thesis

A bachelor's thesis should be between 20 and 40 pages long, and a master's thesis should be no more than twice that length, i.e., 80 pages. However, the length of a thesis can vary greatly depending on the topic and is therefore not assessed based on the exact number of pages. It is more important that all parts of the thesis are included and that it contains a significant amount of your own work, possibly including fieldwork and your own illustrations. Writing concisely and precisely can be more challenging than filling many pages. You can write your thesis in either German or English. Writing your thesis in English has two advantages. First, most scientific journals are in English, so you would not have to translate your thesis if it was published. Second, an English thesis shows that you have good English communication skills, which can be very helpful for future applications and jobs.

Use of AI in your thesis

The use of AI in theses is not fundamentally excluded. However, good scientific practice should always be considered. This means that the moderate use of AI, for example for translation, programming, or research, is permitted and can also be useful. It is not permitted to have an entire thesis written by AI or to have data analysed by AI. Remember that doing so would constitute an attempt at deception. If you use AI in any form in your thesis, you must cite it accordingly.

Submitting your thesis

Please submit printed copies of your thesis to the Examination Office. Please also check with the Examination Office for the relevant requirements. This should also be stated on your registration confirmation. Please also send us a PDF version of your thesis at the same time as you submit it. This will enable us to correct it more quickly. After submitting your thesis and receiving your grade from the Examination Office, you are welcome to come by for a feedback meeting.

We look forward to working with you and are available to answer any questions you may have!