



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
DEPARTMENT OF DIGITAL SYSTEMS

Distance Learning Master of Science in
Advanced Cybersecurity Technologies and Governance

**D5.2 Regulation of studies, internships, mobility, assignment preparation of the
Distance Learning M.Sc.
«Advanced Cybersecurity Technologies and Governance»**

*D5.2d Master Thesis Preparation Regulation
of the Distance Learning M.Sc.
«Advanced Cybersecurity Technologies and Governance»*

Piraeus, March 2026

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Acronyms

M.Sc. / MSc	Master of Science
ECTS	European Community Course Credit Transfer System
H.E.I.	Higher Educational Institutions
H.M.E.I.	Higher Military Educational Institutions
A.I. / AI	Artificial Intelligence

1 Introduction

The preparation of a Master Thesis in the distance learning M.Sc. «Advanced Cybersecurity Technologies and Governance» covers the third semester of studies and is mandatory for master's students to complete their studies. According to the M.Sc. Regulation, the thesis grants thirty (30) ECTS to the student. It includes a research project in a field related to the academic subject of the program and reflects the further study and scientific deepening chosen by the master's students. Upon completion, it is evaluated by a three-member Examination Committee. The subject of the thesis must have a research nature and be original.

It is emphasized that, under the responsibility of the master's students, the thesis must be written in accordance with the Principles of Academic Research Ethics adopted by the University of Piraeus.

2 Master Thesis Preparation Regulation

2.1 Article 1 - Master Thesis Topic

The Master Thesis may address theoretical or applied topics. In any case, the choice of thematic area and methodology must ensure the significance of the research, that is, its contribution to theoretical literature and/or to the resolution of methodological issues and/or in terms of practical applications. It must demonstrate advanced theoretical knowledge and skills, critical thinking, the ability to analyze and synthesize problems, and the research capability of the master's student.

The thesis may be carried out in collaboration with a private or public entity that is active or has an interest in related scientific fields.

2.2 Article 2 - Master Thesis Submission and Approval Procedure

At the end of the second semester of each academic cycle, the Instructors of the M.Sc. submit to the Director lists of thematic areas for Master's Theses, which, upon its approval, are made available to the postgraduate students. Students choose a thematic area and a Supervisor and, with her/his consent, submit a relevant application to the M.Sc. Secretariat. The Coordinating Committee of the M.Sc. proposes the appointment of the three-member Examination Committees for the Master's Theses to the Department's Assembly for approval.

The deadlines for submitting applications by students are determined by the M.Sc. Coordinating Committee.

The student is allowed to file an application for changing the topic and/or the Supervisor of the thesis. This application states the new thematic area and/or, upon her/his approval, the new Supervisor. The application is reviewed by the M.Sc. Coordinating Committee and is then forwarded to the Department's Assembly for approval.

2.3 Article 3 - Master Thesis Supervision

As previously mentioned, the M.Sc. Coordinating Committee, following an application by the interested master's students, appoints the Supervisor of the Master Thesis and proposes to the decision-making Department's Assembly the three-member Examination Committee, one of the members being the Supervisor.

The right to supervise a Thesis is granted to instructors of the M.Sc., provided they hold a doctoral degree and belong to the following categories, in accordance with current legislation (Article 83, Law 4957/2022, Government Gazette 141/21.07.2022, Vol. A):

- a) Faculty members, Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff, Specialized Technical and Laboratory Staff of the Department or other Departments of the same or another Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.) or Higher Military Education Institution (H.M.E.I.), with additional employment beyond their statutory obligations, if the M.Sc. has tuition fees.
- b) Emeritus Professors or retired members of the Faculty of the Department or other Departments of the same or another H.E.I.

- c) Collaborating Professors
- d) Appointed Instructors
- e) Visiting professors/researchers
- f) Researchers and special scientists from research and technological institutions as defined in Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Government Gazette A' 258) or other domestic or foreign research centers and institutes, provided they hold a doctoral degree

By decision of the Department's Assembly, upon proposal of the M.Sc. Coordinating Committee, supervision of Master theses may also be assigned to Faculty members, Special Teaching Staff, and Laboratory Teaching Staff of the Department who have not undertaken teaching duties in the M.Sc., provided they hold a doctoral degree.

The remaining members of the three-member Examination Committee may belong to any category of instructors eligible to undertake teaching duties in the M.Sc. The Committee Members must have the same or a related scientific specialization as the academic field of the M.Sc.

In exceptional cases of objective inability to carry out supervisory duties for an extended period or the existence of another significant reason, upon the student's application in the above cases, the Coordinating Committee may propose to the decision-making Department's Assembly the replacement of the Supervisor or a Member of the Examination Committee.

2.4 Article 4 - Duration of the Master Thesis and Workload

The Master Thesis is carried out during the third (3rd) semester of studies.

The examination of the Thesis takes place during the third (3rd) semester. Its grading and the grade entry into the student records system are conducted in accordance with the current academic calendar.

If, after the completion of the third (3rd) semester of each academic year, students have not successfully completed the Thesis, the completion period is extended for one (1) additional academic semester.

The workload required to be undertaken by each student during the preparation of the Master Thesis is estimated at no less than seven hundred and fifty (750) working hours, which correspond to thirty (30) ECTS credits. This means an average weekly workload of approximately forty three (43) hours.

2.5 Article 5 - Master Thesis Language

The Master Thesis is written in English.

2.6 Article 6 - Group Master Thesis Provisioning

The Master Thesis can be carried out by groups of students. In such cases the Supervisor must ensure the distinct individual work contribution of each member.

During the examination, the presence of all group members is considered necessary, and each member must present her/his own contribution. Grades are recorded individually, and it is possible for the members of the group to receive different grades.

2.7 Article 7 - Structure and Length of the Master Thesis

Each Master Thesis must include, at a minimum, the following:

- Standardized cover page
- One-page abstract in the language of the Master Thesis
- Introduction including the research questions that will be addressed
- Literature review
- Methodology presentation
- Research results, analysis, and discussion
- Conclusions
- Limitations of the Thesis
- Bibliography/References

The Master Thesis must also include a Table of Contents, as well as an optional section for dedication and acknowledgements. Depending on the topic of the Thesis, the main text may be accompanied by Appendices that include supplementary material, questionnaires, sources, etc.

The length of the text should range between 18,000 and 22,000 words. Footnotes are included in the word count, but the table of contents, abstracts, any dedications and acknowledgements, appendices, bibliography, etc., are not included.

2.8 Article 8 - Final Submission, Examination, and Evaluation Process of the Master's Thesis

The submission of the Master Thesis for examination requires that the student has successfully passed all courses of the M.Sc. program.

The examination of the thesis is conducted during the third (3rd) semester and includes its presentation before the three-member Examination Committee, either in person or remotely using digital means. The Committee evaluates the Master Thesis using a special form, which is signed by all three members and submitted by the Supervisor to the M.Sc. Secretariat, where it is kept on file.

Postgraduate students are also required to include in their thesis a declaration stating the following: *«I hereby declare that the present Master's Thesis entitled:"..... [title of the master's thesis]....." as well as the electronic files developed or modified in the context of this work and explicitly referenced in the accompanying text and which has been conducted at the Department of Digital Systems of the University of Piraeus is solely the result of my personal effort and does not infringe on any third-party intellectual property rights and is not a product of partial or total copying, the sources used are limited solely to the bibliographic references. Any points where I have used ideas, texts, files and/or sources from other authors are clearly cited in the text with the appropriate reference, and the relevant citation is included in the references section with full details. Copying, storing, and distributing this work, in whole or in part, for commercial purposes is prohibited. Reproduction, storage, and distribution for non-*

commercial, educational, or research purposes is permitted, provided the source is cited and this notice is retained. Questions regarding the use of this work for commercial purposes should be addressed to the author. The opinions and conclusions contained in this document express the views of the author alone.».

The approval of the Master Thesis requires its defense before the three-member Examination Committee and follows the procedure below:

The Master Thesis is presented in a public session. The public defense includes an oral presentation of the thesis with a maximum duration of twenty (20) minutes, followed by questions posed by the three-member Examination Committee and any attendees. The Committee is considered legally convened for the examination of the thesis when all three of its members are present (section 5, paragraph 1, article 14 of Law 2690/1999). The members of the Committee exchange views, ask questions to the examinee, and subsequently decide on the final evaluation grade. They then complete the relevant evaluation form, sign it, and submit it to the M.Sc. Secretariat.

To approve the Master Thesis, the average score given by the three committee members must be equal to or greater than five (5). The Thesis is graded on a scale from zero (0.0) to ten (10), with the possibility of using half-point increments (X.5 or X.0).

Master Theses are evaluated based on the thorough selection of bibliographic sources, the scientific accuracy in analyzing existing knowledge, the depth of exploration within the subject area, the comprehensiveness of topic coverage, the descriptive precision, the coherent structure and clear articulation of arguments, elements of research contribution and the generation of new knowledge in the scientific field, the overall scientific maturity of the work, compliance of the Thesis' formatting and content with the relevant guidelines, completeness and maturity during the oral presentation, adherence to the allocated time, and the student's scientifically sound responses to questions posed by the three-member Examination Committee.

Grading criteria include:

Grade [9-10]

- Demonstrates excellent understanding of all major issues
- Relevant literature has been thoroughly researched and critically evaluated
- Advanced ability to apply theory in approaching practical problems (where appropriate)
- Highly informative interpretation of findings with critical awareness of both strengths and limitations
- Accurate use of tables and figures
- Well-selected and up-to-date references used at appropriate points
- Complete and well-structured bibliography
- Exceptionally well-organized and fully developed thesis within the word limit.

Grade [8-9)

- Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of key issues
- Relevant literature has been satisfactorily researched and evaluated
- Ability to apply theory in a refined manner to practical problems

- Major issues arising from the topic are identified and addressed wholly or partially
- No significant factual or interpretative errors
- Sound and effective use of tables and figures
- Well-selected and updated references used at appropriate points
- Well-organized and logically structured thesis within the word limit.

Grade [7-8)

- Demonstrates satisfactory understanding of key issues with some gaps or deficiencies
- Literature has been researched at an acceptable but not beyond that
- Satisfactory ability to apply theory to practical problems (where appropriate)
- Some major issues arising from the topic are identified and addressed
- Few factual or interpretative errors indicating some misinterpretation of the literature
- Mostly appropriate tables and figures
- Adequate references with some omissions and acceptable use of sources
- Logical structure with occasional inconsistencies within the word limit.

Grades [5-7)

- Demonstrates less than satisfactory understanding of key issues
- Literature has been partially researched, leaving significant gaps
- Limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)
- Several major issues arising from the topic are not sufficiently addressed
- Some serious factual or interpretative errors indicating misunderstanding of core material
- Inappropriate or incomplete use of tables and figures
- Inappropriate or incomplete references
- Presentation, pagination, title, margins, and paragraphs not in accordance with relevant guidelines.

Grades [1-4] (unsuccessful)

- Demonstrates inability to understand key issues
- Literature has been inadequately researched, revealing knowledge gaps
- Very limited ability to relate research to practical problems (where appropriate)
- Few to none of the major issues arising from the topic are identified or presented
- Serious factual and interpretative errors
- Inappropriate or incomplete use of tables and figures
- Inappropriate or incomplete references
- Careless presentation, insufficient attention to pagination, title, margins, and paragraphs.

Grade 0

- No thesis submitted

The three-member Examination Committee decides whether the Master Thesis is accepted or not and has the right to:

- accept the thesis as is
- accept it on the condition that specific changes are made, followed by a re-evaluation of the text by the Examination Committee
- reject it.

Master Theses, once examined, finalized, and positively graded by the three-member Examination Committee, must be electronically submitted by the student to the Institutional Repository DIONE of the Library of the University of Piraeus (<https://dione.lib.unipi.gr/>).

In the event of an unsuccessful examination of the Thesis, the three-member Examination Committee may refer it back one (1) time. The re-examination of the Thesis may take place within a period of one (1) to three (3) months from the date of the unsuccessful examination and referral. In this case, the duration of studies is extended by three (3) months.

2.9 Article 9 - Application of the Code of Conduct and Plagiarism

The preparation of the Master's Thesis must be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct of the University of Piraeus.

After the electronic submission of the thesis, the text is checked for issues of plagiarism using the Turnitin software employed by the University of Piraeus. Plagiarism and the appropriation of others' work are considered disciplinary offenses (paragraph 2 of article 197 of Law 4957/2022), and every incident must be handled appropriately, with possible referral to the competent disciplinary bodies for the prescribed actions, depending on the severity of the case.

In case of copying, plagiarism, or any other violation of the assignment framework being identified, the instructor shall inform the student and may request the correction or resubmission of the assignment within a deadline set by the instructor. If the violation substantially affects the evaluation, the assignment may be graded with a low mark or the student may be required to prepare it anew.

The Master Thesis is subject to mandatory text similarity screening prior to its defense.

2.10 Article 10 - Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted solely in a supportive capacity and may not substitute for the student's primary authorship or research work.

The submission of content generated by AI, in whole or in substantial part, as original individual work is prohibited.

The use of AI-based assisted writing and content generation tools is permitted only if:

- a) it is explicitly declared in the references or in a relevant note within the assignment; and
- b) it is limited to supportive use

In case of undeclared use of artificial intelligence tools, the instructor shall inform the student and may request the correction or resubmission of the assignment within a deadline set by the instructor. If the violation substantially affects the evaluation, the assignment may be graded with a low mark or the student may be required to prepare it anew.

ANNEX

A. Master Thesis Preparation and Writing Guidelines

A.1 Organization and Structure

Regardless of the specialized structure and division of chapters that each individual M.Sc. Thesis may take, it must include at least the following sections: introduction, literature review, presentation of the methodology, research results, analysis and discussion, conclusions.

Below, information is provided for each of the sections that must be included at a minimum.

A.1.1 Cover Page

The standardized cover page of the Thesis contains basic information about the thesis and its author or authors, it does not include excessive information, instead it is limited to the main details, following the template provided below.

A.1.2 Abstract

The cover page of a M.Sc. Thesis must be followed by:

- A one-page abstract in the language in which the thesis is written

The abstract should provide a concise description of the main points of the Thesis, with emphasis on the results, contribution, and conclusions. When writing the abstract, the following points should be expressed as briefly as possible: the purpose of the thesis, the methodology followed, the research findings, the expected implications of the findings at both theoretical and practical levels, and the innovation and contribution of the thesis.

A.1.3 Introduction

The introductory section of a M.Sc. Thesis is particularly important for understanding the text. The introduction follows a flow from the general to the specific, that is, it begins with the general context in which the thesis is situated and gradually narrows down to the specific subject of the particular study and research.

The reader of the introductory section should be able to find answers to at least the following questions:

- «*What is the context of the M.Sc. Thesis?*» For example, when a Thesis addresses the limitations on the disclosure of personal information of social media users, it should clearly follow the relative legal framework.
- «*What is the subject of the M.Sc. Thesis?*» The research subject of a Thesis describes the topic being addressed and defines its target audience i.e., those active in the relevant field who will find the Thesis interesting and may benefit from its results. A Thesis has a research purpose expressed at a general level, for example: «The purpose of this Master Thesis is the comparative evaluation of legal frameworks for Artificial Intelligence in the European Union and China.» To achieve this purpose, the Thesis identifies one or more research objectives.

For example: «Our objective is to outline the requirements and limitations applied to the training data used by Large Language Models». Upon completion of the Master's Thesis, the author should provide justification regarding the extent to which the stated objectives have been met.

- «*Why is the subject under study important?*» It is of primary importance to express the reasons why dealing with this particular research subject is considered significant. This justification may be multifaceted and include, among other things: data highlighting the severity of the problem or the scope of its impacts, or references to well-documented scientific articles explicitly demonstrating the need for research on the given problem. Additionally, arguments for the importance of the research issue should be expressed based on two axes: [a] substantiating why the problem should be investigated, and [b] demonstrating that it has not been sufficiently explored in the existing literature. The introduction should not include a detailed review and analysis of the literature but may use basic bibliographic sources to support the arguments, which will be analyzed in detail in later sections of the Thesis.
- «*What is the scope and the boundaries of the Master Thesis?*» The introduction should make clear to the reader what exactly is being studied and what is not. within the scope of the Thesis.
- «*How does the Master Thesis address the specific problem?*» The introduction may include a statement on how the Thesis intends to address the problem, briefly referring to the methodology and results in relation to tackling or further explaining the issue.
- «*What will the reader find in the following sections?*» The introduction of a Thesis concludes by outlining the chapters or sections that follow. For example: “Chapter 1 describes... Chapter 2 presents...” etc.

A.1.4 Literature Review

A Master Thesis refers to the existing literature in order to:

- a) provide definitions and descriptions of specialized terms that will be used in the Thesis
- b) analyze how the research problem fits into contemporary literature
- c) demonstrate that the research problem is significant and that the problem as a whole—or more commonly, specific aspects of it—have not been studied, or to show how certain aspects have been inadequately addressed
- d) highlight the way in which the problem will be investigated.

The selection of literature to be analyzed and the critical synthesis of bibliographic works are key elements of the quality of the Thesis. Literature must be selected systematically and comprehensively within the scope of the Master Thesis, ensuring that no important dimension of the problem or any proposed solutions are omitted.

Knowledge of the most important scientific journals, conferences, and published books in the research area to which the Master Thesis belongs is crucial for the selection of literature.

Lengthy analyses of literature and the inclusion of large verbatim excerpts from bibliographic sources should be avoided. The literature review should occupy a proportionate section relative to the overall length of the Thesis. Each bibliographic reference included should be critically examined to determine why it has been included and whether it genuinely supports points (a), (b), (c), or (d). It is not necessary to include all the works studied, only those that truly contributed to the Thesis.

Additionally, a horizontal analysis of the literature by topic—rather than by individual work—is considered essential, as this approach leads to clear conclusions. The literature review section should conclude with findings that guide the reader into the subsequent chapters and, most importantly, underscore the significance of the upcoming sections of the Thesis.

A.1.5 Methodology

This section presents the methodology followed for conducting the research of the Master Thesis. In cases where one or more scientific theories were utilized for designing the research, the main elements of the theory are described along with how they shaped the research design.

Often, Master Theses include some form of “empirical research,” which aims to connect theory with reality. Empirical research may take many forms. Indicatively, these include case studies, simulations, data collection via questionnaires and their quantitative analysis (surveys), among others. In all such cases, it is important to provide details regarding the conduct of the research, such as the time period during which it was conducted, the selection of the samples, the method used to distribute the questionnaire and collect responses, the method by which interviews were conducted, and the criteria used to assess the validity and reliability of the research, etc. The type of information required to be presented depends on the nature of the research.

A.1.6 Research Results, Analysis and Discussion

This section presents the results of the research and the contribution of the Master Thesis. The presentation of results should be coherent and aligned with the research purpose and objectives already stated in the introduction of the Thesis, i.e. the question «have we achieved the stated objectives? » must be addressed.

It is often advisable to use aggregate and graphical methods (e.g., tables, charts), while maintaining the coherence of the text.

Of course, the Master Thesis should not be limited to simply listing the results, but should also include a thorough analysis and discussion of the findings, which often occupies a separate chapter. In discussing the results, the findings of the Thesis are compared with those of other studies that investigated the same problem. Naturally, information from these studies should already be included in the literature review section. The purpose of this comparison is: (a) to analyze how the findings are complementary or contradictory, and why that may be the case, and (b) to highlight any new perspectives that emerge when examining the findings in combination.

During the discussion of results, there should be a reference to how the findings of the Master Thesis can be utilized, that is, who might be interested in the results and how they might find them useful.

This section always concludes with reference to future extensions of the research stemming from the Master Thesis, such as new research questions raised by its results, or new aspects of the problem that emerge from the presented findings.

A.1.7 Conclusions

In the final section of the Master Thesis, the findings and contributions of the Thesis are summarized. The aim of this section is to concisely describe the main results of the Master Thesis, the extent and manner in which the stated objectives were achieved, the Master Thesis's contribution to literature and practice, how the thesis can be utilized, and the proposed future steps.

No new elements, sources, or issues should be introduced in this section.

A.1.8 Restrictions

This section outlines any obstacles and issues that limited the work of the Master Thesis, such as restrictions in access to sources and technical resources, time or financial constraints. Additionally, any research limitations are mentioned, particularly regarding methodological aspects. For example, limitations may arise from the size and composition of the sample, the inability to access valuable information sources, the inability to conduct long-term research, etc.

A.1.9 Acknowledgements

At the end of the Master Thesis, acknowledgements are made to any funding sources that supported its preparation, as well as to organizations and individuals who contributed to the execution of the research (e.g., organizations where a case study was conducted).

A.1.10 Sources and References

During the writing of the text, references to bibliographic or other sources must be made both for substantive reasons and for reasons of ethics and academic integrity, as it is important for the reader to be able to distinguish which parts of the Thesis are derived from existing work and which parts constitute original contributions of the Master Thesis itself.

Furthermore, it is important to clearly indicate which source is being used each time, for reasons of quality, validity, and verification by the reader. Regardless of the citation and bibliography format used, source referencing must ensure that it is clear which bibliographic source supports each claim or section of the Thesis that is based on existing literature, and that all sources listed in the references have been actually used in the Thesis. In the final section of the Thesis, a list of sources is provided in a chapter entitled «Sources and References».

A.2 Text Formatting

A.2.1 Style and Language

The style of the Master Thesis should align with that of a scientific work and its intended audience. Therefore:

- The thesis should not resemble an essay of personal views
- It should not raise unresolved or confusing issues for the reader
- It should not overuse punctuation marks
- It should use scientific terms relevant to the field of the Thesis, and their usage must be consistent with their definitions.

It is recommended to avoid verbalisms. Everything included in the Thesis should:

- Contribute to the specific objectives of the Thesis
- Be supported by evidence within the Master's Thesis or derived from another bibliographic source, which must be cited
- Have a clear and specific meaning, i.e. statements that allow for open-ended or multiple interpretations should be avoided unless they are subsequently explained in detail.

Use of acronyms is allowed, provided that the full form is stated the first time the term is introduced. For example: information security policy compliance – ISP compliance. The common practice is to use acronyms only for terms that are central to the Thesis and appear frequently throughout the text.

Since parts of the Master Thesis are written at different times, the final version of the thesis must be characterized by overall consistency in style and language. This consistency should apply to all sections of the Thesis, for example, if chapters conclude with a section titled “Conclusions,” then all chapters (except the first and last) should include such a section accordingly.

A.2.2 Formatting

The formatting and overall presentation of the text are important evaluation criteria for the Thesis, but even more importantly, they can substantially contribute to attracting the reader to engage with the Master Thesis.

Regardless of the specific attached template, it is critical to always ensure unity, consistency, and uniformity throughout the entire text. The same fonts, paragraph spacing, line spacing, alignment, numbering style, and list format should be used consistently across the Thesis. All individual elements must be formatted uniformly: all chapter titles should have the same numbering style, color, font, etc. Likewise, all subsection titles must follow the same formatting rules, and all captions for Tables, Charts, and Figures should be consistent (e.g., all placed below the graphic and using the same font and size).

Page numbering should also follow a uniform format throughout the entire document.

For the writing of the Thesis, the following formatting should be applied:

- Font: Palatino Linotype
- Font Size: 11 pt for the main text, 10 pt for footnotes
- Page Size: A4
- Margins: 2 cm (top, bottom, right), 2.5 cm (left)
- Alignment: Justified
- Paragraph Spacing: 1.5 line spacing

- First-level section titles (chapter titles): bold uppercase 12 pt (e.g. **4. SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**)
- Second-level section titles: bold 11 pt (e.g. **4.1 Social Media Platforms**)
- Third-level section titles: bold italics 11 pt (e.g. **4.1.2 Social Media Platforms**)
- Fourth-level section titles: italics 11 pt (e.g. *4.1.2.3 Social Media Platforms*)
- Captions for figures, tables, etc.: Always placed below the figures, tables, etc., in Bold Italics, 10 pt, centered, with continuous numbering throughout the thesis (*Table 1: Social Media Platforms, Table 2, ..., Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, ...*)

A.2.3 Table of Contents

Automatic table of contents generation tools supported by all modern word processors may be used. The use of such tools requires proper structuring of the Master Thesis (e.g., Heading Level 1, Heading Level 2, etc.). After generating the table of contents, it should be further edited to ensure readability. Master students are advised to become familiar with how to effectively utilize these features in their word processor.

A.2.4 Formatting of Citations and Bibliography

For the creation of citations and the compilation of the bibliography, it is recommended to follow the APA (American Psychological Association) style. Guidelines are available from various reliable sources (e.g., <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide/>).

A.3 The issue of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, or work in a way that creates the impression they belong to the person using them. This can apply even to a single phrase or sentence, not just an entire Thesis. Plagiarism is not only an offense, but also an ethical and scientific issue.

Many students face accusations of plagiarism due to carelessness or ignorance. The most effective practice is to always provide full and properly organized citations for any material used in the Thesis. References should enable the reader to directly access the cited work, taking into account editions, publishers, and publication dates. Any text reproduced verbatim from another source must be placed in quotation marks or clearly distinguished by other means, with the source cited. The same applies to tables and figures that are copied verbatim. If the content is adapted or reformulated by the student, the source must still be cited.

Beyond being an ethical, and scientific issue, plagiarism significantly compromises the quality of a Master Thesis, resulting in a text that lacks cohesive style and structure. Copied content is often confusing because it is «out of context» and may be easily misinterpreted. Plagiarism is now easily detectable through automated tools such as Turnitin, which is widely used by Universities. Additionally, the Supervisor may be familiar with the original source from which content is copied.

A common challenge for master students involves the use of “secondary sources” versus “primary sources.” When material is drawn directly from an author's publication, it constitutes a primary source. However, if students read in one source what another author has written, they

are using a secondary source. Good practice is to locate the primary source, study it directly, and cite it. If access to the primary source is not possible, due to availability issues, students must clearly state that the secondary source references the primary one and cite both accordingly.

It is also worth noting that plagiarism does not only concern the work of other authors, as copying from one's own previously written texts (self-plagiarism) is also prohibited. Thus, the same rules also apply to the student's own past work if it is used as a source.

A.4 Conclusions

The quality of a Master Thesis is assessed based on numerous criteria related both to the scientific merit and contribution of the work conducted, as well as the quality of the Master Thesis presentation in written form. Particular attention must be paid to the structure, style, and formatting of the text. Even more important is the correct use of references and the complete avoidance of plagiarism.

In any case, students undertaking a Master Thesis are advised to maintain close collaboration with their Supervisor and consult them on any matter related to the writing of the Master Thesis.

B. Master Thesis Application Form

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΨΗΦΙΑΚΩΝ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΩΝ

ΕΞ ΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

“ ΠΡΟΗΓΜΕΝΕΣ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ

ΚΥΒΕΡΝΟΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΣΗ ”

ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS

DEPARTMENT OF DIGITAL SYSTEMS

DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER OF SCIENCE

“ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY TECHNOLOGIES
AND GOVERNANCE”

SECRETARIAT

MASTER'S THESIS APPLICATION FORM

Academic Year: 2026 - 2027
Student Identification Number: XXX - XXXX
Full Name:
Telephone:
E-mail:

I hereby inform you that I wish to undertake a Master Thesis with the initial title:
«.....» under the
supervision of

The exact title of the thesis will be determined by the Supervisor in due course.

Piraeus, XX.XX.2027

The Applicant

Approved

(Signature)

(Signature)

The Supervisor

C. Master Thesis Evaluation Form



MASTER THESIS EVALUATION FORM

Academic year 2026 – 2027

On the[*date*] the Master Student Mr./Mrs.
..... with Student Identification Number XXX-XXXX was
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(title in english)

« »

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Piraeus, XX.XX.2027

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[Signature]

[Signature]

Full Name
Supervisor

Full Name
First examiner

Full Name
Second examiner

D. Master Thesis Template



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS

DEPARTMENT OF DIGITAL SYSTEMS

Distance Learning Master of Science

«Advanced Cybersecurity Technologies and Governance»

Academic year 2026-2027

MASTER'S THESIS

by [Name Surname] (Reg. No.:)

[THESIS TITLE – BOLD UPPER-CASE 13 pt]

Supervisor:

.....

Piraeus, month year

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Preface and Acknowledgements

First paragraph

Next paragraph....

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Author's Declaration

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Master's Thesis:
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List of Figures

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Each entry shows the number, the caption, and the page.

<Formatting: 10-point font, centered, with continuous numbering throughout the thesis (*Figure 1:, Figure 2:....., etc.*)>

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Master's Thesis:
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Abstract

First paragraph

Following paragraphs

Keywords: test1, test2

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 <Heading relating to the broader field of the Master's Thesis>

First paragraph

Next paragraph

1.2 <Field of the Master's Thesis>

First paragraph

Next paragraph

1.2.1 < Sub-heading >

First Paragraph

Next Paragraph

1.3 < Other sections >

First Paragraph

Next Paragraph

1.3.1 *Structure of the Master's Thesis*

...

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 <Sub-heading>

First Paragraph

Second Paragraph

.....

.....

2.2 <Other sub-heading>

2.2.1 <Sub-sub-heading >

First Paragraph

.....

2.2.2 <Other sub-sub-heading>

.....

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 <Sub-heading>

3.1.1 <Sub-sub-heading>

3.1.1.1

Master's Thesis:

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4 RESEARCH RESULTS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 <Sub-heading>

5.1.1

5.1.1.1

6 LIMITATIONS OF THE MASTER'S THESIS

7 SOURCES AND REFERENCES

<The following is an example reference list>

Acquisti, A. (2004), Privacy in electronic commerce and the economics of immediate gratification. In: *Proceedings of the 5th ACM conference on Electronic commerce*, May 17-20, 2004, New York, USA.

Acquisti, A., Gritzalis, S., Lambrinouidakis, C., and De Capitani di Vimercati, S. (eds.) (2008). *Digital Privacy: Theory, Technology, and Practices*. New York, USA: Auerbach Publications.

Kosta, E., Kalloniatis, C., Mitrou, L., and Gritzalis, S. (2010), Data protection issues pertaining to social networking under EU law. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 4(2), 193-201.

Appendix 1 <Appendix Title>