

Guideline: Master's Thesis and MAEA Colloquium

1. Master's Thesis

- Find a Professor who is doing research in your field of interest and offering courses within the MAEA program.
- If you like to choose a professor outside the Economics Department, clarify with the MAEA coordinator (maea@vwi.unibe.ch) if this is possible.
- Get in touch with the professor and catch up on her/his guidelines or rules for the Master's thesis (e.g. timeline, defining research topic, formalities etc.)
- Define your research topic and timeline for your thesis
- Write your Master's thesis

2. MAEA Master Colloquium

- It is compulsory for students studying within the MAEA to present their Master's thesis (or current work on it) at the MAEA Colloquium.
- Students receive 1.5 ECTS for presenting at the MAEA Colloquium.
- All MAEA students should attend the MAEA Colloquium, even if they do not present, in order to give feedback to the presenters and to get inputs for their own thesis. This also helps to get to know your fellow MAEA students.
- If you would like to present your Master thesis at the MAEA Colloquium, please register in the CTS/KSL for your preferred date. After registration deadline in CTS/KSL we will contact you.
- At the time of presentation, you should have done at least around 70% of your thesis work. However, you should schedule enough time to incorporate received feedback into your work (i.e. you should NOT present your final thesis, rather your work in progress).
- Every year there are four dates on which the MAEA Colloquium normally takes place:
 - May/June
 - September (before the autumn semester begins, counts as spring semester)
 - November/December
 - February (before the spring semester begins, counts as autumn semester)

Further Information: Choosing a MAEA Colloquium Date

It is compulsory for students studying within the MAEA to present their current work on their master thesis at the MAEA Colloquium. The MAEA Colloquium is best seen as a platform to present first results of your thesis, to receive feedback from fellow students and professors and to improve the quality of your thesis. There are two considerations you should bear in mind when choosing the date on which you want to present at the Colloquium: First, you should have already completed ca. 70% of your thesis when presenting. You should have already run the most important estimation and be able to present first results. This will guarantee a meaningful discussion of your work in progress. Second, you should schedule enough time to be able to incorporate the feedback you received into your work. Considering comments and suggestions from other students and supervisors is an integral part of the colloquium – this will take some time, however. To avoid unexpected and stressful situations, you should therefore schedule at least a month between your presentation and the date you hand in your finalized thesis.