

# What do we expect from BSc and MSc students at the Chair for Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology\*

\*Information that only applies for MSc students is printed in **BOLD**

## 1. Finding a topic

- Advertised topic: either on the notice board or the Nature homepage; get in touch with the contact person via Email.
- Own topic: The student should have their own research question or hypothesis, which matches the research topics and orientation of the Chair. More detailed research final questions and hypotheses can be specified with the supervisor.

## 2. Before the start of the thesis

- Independent literature search after predefined criteria
- Preparation of a proposal (about two pages plus reference list) with introduction, research question, methods, schedule and literature.
- Self-assessment for the execution of the thesis (for example, do you fulfil requirements such as fitness for fieldwork, knowledge of R, visa for work abroad...)
- Identification of the co-supervisor/referee together with the supervisor
- Own registration for the thesis

Attention: You can only register and start work on your thesis after the successful examination of the proposal by the supervisor

## 3. Work on the thesis:

- Coordination of the schedule together with supervisor
- Learning of methods together with supervisor
- Independent execution of methods
- **Agreement with supervisor on statistical analyses** and learning of statistical analyses with supervisor
- **Independent execution of analyses** / Analyses with the help of the supervisor
- Independent writing of the thesis (supervisor can comment on drafts of the thesis but does not correct them). Examples of successful theses are available from the supervisor or can be viewed on the homepage
- Before submitting the thesis, you need to clear and clean (in case you used it) working space, lab space, greenhouse or research field sites. Samples must be labelled and archived in accordance with the supervisor (for example, pinning and labelling insects in the insect cabinets)

- **For the duration of the work on your thesis we welcome active participation of all MSc students in the scientific conduct at the faculty:**
  - **Participation at seminars (E+E Seminar, Statistic Cafe); E+E: <http://www.biom.uni-freiburg.de/research/seminars/eeseминаr>; Statistic cafe: <http://www.biom.uni-freiburg.de/research/seminars/statscafe>**
  - **Presentation at the group meeting of the Chair (after the analyses of the MSc thesis data)**

#### *4. Submitting the thesis*

- With the submission of the thesis, all raw data and R scripts must be handed over to the supervisor.
- Together with the thesis, you must submit a CD with the PDF of the thesis, the raw data (excel or csv files) and all R scripts.
- The thesis will only be reviewed when data and/or samples are archived according to those information!

What can students expect from us as supervisors of BSc and MSc theses?

#### *1. Finding a topic*

- Advertisement of topics for BSc and MSc theses, regular updates
- For own topics: Specification of research question and adequate supervision, when topic matches the research direction of the Chair and/or supervisor.

#### *2. Before the start of the thesis*

- Evaluation of the feasibility of the topic on the basis of the proposal
- Support for the selection of the co-supervisor/referee
- Advice on suitable literature
- Advise on potential statistical tools

#### *3. Work on the thesis*

- Support for a realistic schedule
- Teaching of the methods
- Discussing the analysis (teaching of statistical methods)
- If wanted by the student, comments on the thesis (at least two weeks before submission)

#### *4. Submission of the thesis*

- Review on the completion of all relevant documents for submission
- Reviewing and grading of the thesis within the time given by the examination office