

## Master's Concept Talks at the GIScience Center

The aims of concept talks are 1) to get useful feedback from researchers at the GIScience Center, aside from the direct MSc thesis advisors, and 2) to prepare MSc students for the oral defense of their MSc project with their final Masters' examination.

1. MSc students enrolled in the MSc thesis module are required to present their MSc thesis concept at the research colloquium of the GIScience Center.
2. MSc concept talks are generally scheduled approximately 7–8 weeks after the official starting date of the MSc thesis (enrollment date).
3. MSc students should provide a provisional thesis title when they enroll for their MSc. Send this information to [GIScience-admin@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:GIScience-admin@geo.uzh.ch). This information is needed to assign reviewers and advertise the colloquium.
4. Presenting students must also provide a written MSc concept, and send this document (PDF) per Email to two selected reviewers **1 week before** they deliver their talk.
5. Each student is assigned two reviewers who are members of the GIScience Center. The reviewers read the written concept, attend the talk, and give feedback after the talk on the written concept and the oral presentation with respect to both form and content. This feedback serves as a future MSc exam preparation. It is especially aimed for early identification of potential issues or challenges with planned work.
6. Concept talks should have a maximum length of 20 minutes and are followed by a discussion with the audience, lasting no longer than 10 minutes. Each presenter moderates the talk of at least one other presenter in the session. Moderators should:
  - a. Briefly introduce the speaker
  - b. Keep time
  - c. Moderate the question and answer session, making sure the whole session lasts no more than 30 minutes
  - d. Be prepared to ask a question if necessary
7. The expected content and structure of a MSc written concept and talk includes:
  - a. Research motivation
  - b. Problem statement and goals
  - c. Related work: State of research and research context
  - d. Planned methods
  - e. Expected outcomes and anticipated challenges
  - f. Brief timeline and planned milestones
  - g. Summary (and possibly open questions for the audience)
8. Presenters should make individual appointments to get feedback from their assigned reviewers. Presenters should email minutes of their feedback meetings to their supervisors and the reviewers.
9. GIScience MSc students are required to attend and participate in all GIScience Center Colloquia during their enrollment in the MSc thesis module.