

Master's Thesis Concept Talks at the GIScience Center

The aims of the MSc 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. This also includes MSc students in ESS affiliated with one of the three units of the GIScience Center.
2. MSc concept talks are generally scheduled approximately 7–8 weeks after one of the four possible official enrollment dates for the MSc thesis module. Please make sure to check the available module booking dates and enroll **before** the desired starting date.
3. First, MSc candidates must upload a short concept to Leangate when booking the MSc thesis module. The thesis concept can be as brief as stating the working title/topic of the thesis, the names of the thesis advisors who have agreed to supervise, and an abstract with a brief list of references. Once the module is booked, send an email to <GIScience-admin@geo.uzh.ch> with your provisional thesis title and the names of the advisors. This information is needed to assign reviewers and advertise the colloquium.
4. Presenting students are then asked to develop a more extensive written MSc concept and to send this document (PDF) per Email to the selected reviewer at the latest **1 week before** they deliver their concept talk.
5. We recommend organizing a dry run of your talk, at the latest **1 week before** you present in the colloquium. Presenters should make individual appointments should they wish to organize a dry run.
6. Each student is assigned one reviewer who is a member of the GIScience Center. This reviewer reads the written concept, attends the talk, and gives feedback after the talk on the written concept and on the oral presentation on both form and content. This feedback and the dry run of the presentation serves as preparation for your future MSc exam. It is especially aimed for early identification of potential issues or challenges with your planned work.
7. Concept talks should have a maximum length of 15 minutes and are followed by a discussion with the audience, lasting no longer than 5 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 20 minutes
 - d. Be prepared to ask a question if necessary
8. 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)
9. Presenters should make individual appointments to get feedback from their assigned reviewer. Presenters should email minutes of their feedback meetings to their supervisors and the reviewers.
10. GIScience MSc students are required to attend and participate in all GIScience Center Colloquia during their enrollment in the MSc thesis module.