

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of writing a thesis is to fulfill your degree requirements but also to make your research accessible to others. It is important, then, to ensure that the thesis submitted for examination reflects well on the quality of your work and on the University.

This guide is in addition to information in the School of Graduate Studies Calendar and offers guidance on relevant procedures and policies as you write your thesis and move through submission and examination. It is the responsibility of both you and your supervisor(s) to be familiar with all relevant Calendar regulations of the School of Graduate Studies plus all the degree regulations/requirements specific to your own academic unit.

All PhD students are required to submit a thesis that describes their **original** research. The PhD thesis must not only be original scholarship, but it must also make a significant contribution to knowledge in your field(s) of study.

A Masters thesis must demonstrate the ability to carry out research and to organize and analyze results. **Masters degrees requiring the submission of a project report, paper folio, practicum, or internship report that are examined through the School of Graduate Studies are subject to the same regulations as theses.**

The following fundamental points apply to all PhD and thesis-based Masters programs:

- The thesis topic should be decided as early as possible
- The structure and format of the thesis is of utmost importance (see Section 2 of this guide)
- A high degree of literacy is expected
- The thesis should demonstrate full understanding of relevant literature in your subject area(s).
- Thesis material must conform to Memorial University's [Intellectual Property Guidelines](#).
- Thesis research funded by CIHR, NSERC, and/or SSHRC must conform to the ethical guidelines of the [Tri-Council Ethics Policy](#).

### Quality of Writing

- Strive to be as clear, concise, and informative as possible
- Elegance and clarity are always desirable
- Grammar and spelling errors, as well as typos, are not acceptable
- Excessive use of jargon should be avoided

On using editorial and proofreading services: there are number of valuable options for writing assistance. Memorial University's [Writing Centre](#) should be your first choice if you're looking for writing help. Some software and computer apps are better than others for assistance and you must only use these with the knowledge and approval of your supervisor. If you wish to hire an editor/proofreader, the School of Graduate Studies strongly advises that you only hire a professional who will provide you a contract outlining services; further, you must have your supervisor(s) approval to work with a professional editor to ensure that the submitted thesis can be deemed your work.