

On the derogation from Dean's Order No. 1/2014 by the "Regulations on the Conditions for the Selection of Thesis Supervisors and Thesis Topics, the Content and Formal Requirements for Thesis Preparation, and the Thesis Evaluation Process in the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research (for students commencing their studies in the 2025/2026 academic year)" (hereinafter referred to as the *Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research*).

The purpose of preparing the Master's thesis (hereinafter referred to as: Master's thesis):

In the Regulations of Dean's Order No. 1/2014 (Section I):

1. Students of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs (PTE ETK) are required to prepare a thesis as a condition for completing their studies. The thesis is a scientifically rigorous treatment of a specific topic, based on independent professional work and resulting in new findings. It demonstrates the student's thorough professional knowledge, familiarity with relevant international and Hungarian research in the field of investigation, as well as their knowledge of research methodology, biostatistics and informatics, and their ability to apply these skills in practice.
2. Through the thesis, the student must demonstrate the ability to apply, with understanding, the knowledge acquired during their studies and the literature reviewed in relation to the selected topic. The thesis should present creative and independent results and demonstrate the student's critical thinking skills and ability to form independent professional opinions.
3. To achieve the above objectives of the thesis, it is essential that it include conclusions based on the student's own independent results. This is most appropriately achieved through a thesis based on the student's own research of an experimental, descriptive, or exploratory nature; accordingly, the institutes may offer thesis topics of this type. In exceptional cases, however, taking into account the nature of the selected topic or the programme, the thesis requirement may also be fulfilled through a qualitative study, comparative analysis, systematic literature review, case study, or meta-analysis of previous research findings. In such cases, the approval of the Thesis Methodology Committee is required before the topic may be announced. In these latter cases, the application and description of the necessary statistical methodology are also required in order to substantiate the validity of the conclusions.

We kindly request that the objective set out in the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research be amended as follows:

As a condition for completing their studies, students are required to prepare a Master's thesis. The Master's thesis is a scientifically rigorous treatment of a specific topic based on independent professional work and, where possible, resulting in new findings. It demonstrates the student's thorough professional knowledge and competence.

The Thesis Methodology Committee

Both sets of regulations fall within the remit of the Committee (Section II of the Regulations of Dean's Order No. 1/2014).

The Process of Preparing the Thesis:

Students covered by the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research are also subject to the "Thesis Preparation Flowchart" presented in Figure 1 of Section III of the Regulations of Dean's Order No. 1/2014. However, with regard to the substantive regulation of the process, we propose certain deviations in accordance with the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research, for example, concerning the procedure for thesis topic selection or the preparation of the research proposal. These examples are described in greater detail below.

Announcement of Thesis Topics and the Procedure for Topic Selection

By way of derogation from Sections IV and V of Dean's Order No. 1/2014, we propose the following amendment in accordance with the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research:

Selection of a thesis supervisor: The thesis topic selection process begins with the selection of a thesis supervisor. The student contacts a potential supervisor with expertise in the intended field and, together with the supervisor, agrees on the objectives of the Master's thesis. The consultant may be a member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences; students are also entitled to select an external professional consultant. If the thesis supervisor is an external professional, the appointment of an internal consultant is also mandatory. A professional with a higher education qualification and outstanding expertise in the relevant field may be appointed as an external professional thesis supervisor or consultant. A student may have a maximum of two consultants. Any subsequent change to the thesis topic, thesis supervisor, or consultant shall be governed by Section V.9 of Dean's Order No. 1/2014.

Content Requirements Relating to Thesis Topic Selection

1. The topic of the thesis must be related to the student's chosen specialization.
2. **The student may prepare the thesis in connection with one of the following types of content** (the page numbers indicated for the individual chapters of the thesis are intended to provide guidance regarding the relative proportion of the chapters; different chapter lengths are also acceptable, provided that the overall page and character requirements are met):
 - A) **Literature review**, in which the student prepares a review based on Hungarian and international literature sources closely related to the selected topic.
For topic selection and **research planning, the appendix titled "Literature Review"** must be completed.
In this case, the thesis shall be structured as follows: "*Introduction*" (presentation of the problem and justification of the topic selection – 2 pages), "*Methods*" (criteria for

selecting the literature: inclusion criteria [e.g. age group, diagnosis, situation, condition, etc.], and the scope of the data/information to be compared [e.g. symptoms, complications, activities, nursing and care-related tasks, etc.] – 1–2 pages), “*Results*” (systematic presentation of the main information obtained from the literature, in narrative and/or tabular form – 5–10 pages), “*Discussion*” (evaluation of the results, practical application of the information obtained, and limitations of the study – 2–3 pages), “*Conclusion*” (the main conclusion of the literature review – 2–3 pages). The review must include at least 15 literature sources.

B) Topics related to the theoretical background or day-to-day professional practice of the chosen specialization, focusing on issues that are relevant to the programme, current, and forward-looking, using quantitative or qualitative approaches, or a combination of the two. In terms of content, these may include, **for example**:

- the adaptation of a guideline into Hungarian and to the Hungarian context, or the development of a related concept
- a presentation of the regulatory framework relevant to the specialization in selected countries, including references to and descriptions of the relevant legal provisions, as well as, where appropriate, specific proposed wording for amendments to the relevant Hungarian legislation.
- a presentation of an implemented or planned project (e.g. a municipal health promotion project),
- the preparation of a case study (i.e. a description and analysis of one or more procedures, methods, medical histories, events, or situations, focusing primarily on the questions of “how” and “why”),

For topic selection and research planning, the appendix entitled “Topic Related to Professional Practice” must be completed.

In this case, the Master’s thesis may be structured as follows: “*Introduction*” (presentation of the problem, justification of the topic selection, and a brief review of the relevant literature – 1–1.5 pages – 1–2 pages). “*Chapter title related to the selected topic*” (detailed presentation of the adapted guideline or protocol, description of the regulatory framework, presentation of the project or case study, description of the relevant professional practice, etc. – 7–18 pages) “*Summary*” (a brief and concise summary of the topic addressed – 1–2 pages).

C) Empirical research, involving the collection of new data (quantitative, qualitative, or both) using any appropriate data collection method (e.g. questionnaire, document analysis, observation, experiment, etc.), followed by the statistical analysis and quantitative presentation of the results.

For topic selection and research planning, the appendix titled “Empirical Research Plan” must be completed.

In this case, the **Master’s thesis shall be structured** as follows: “*Introduction*” (presentation of the problem, justification of the topic selection, and literature review – 2–3 pages). “*Materials and Methods*” (type of research, place and time of the study, target population, inclusion and exclusion criteria, sampling method, sample size, methods applied, scope of the data collected, and statistical methods used – 2–3 pages). “*Results*” (presentation of the results in narrative form, supported by tables and figures – 5–10 pages), “*Discussion*” (evaluation of the main findings, comparison with

previous research, limitations of the study, and possible directions for further research – 2–3 pages), “*Conclusion*” (a brief conclusion of the research – 2–3 pages). The thesis must include at least 15 relevant literature sources.

The Process of Preparing the Research Plan

With regard to the “Process of Preparing the Research Plan” set out in Section VI of the Regulations of Dean’s Order No. 1/2014, we propose that these provisions should not apply to students falling within the scope of the Thesis Regulations for the Master’s Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research. Instead, these students should be required to complete the relevant form provided as an appendix to the regulations applicable to them—either the “Research Plan for a Literature Review”, the “Research Plan for a Topic Related to Professional Practice”, or the “Research Plan for Empirical Research”—to review and discuss it with their supervisor, and to submit it by the specified deadline in the relevant semester.

Formal requirements of the thesis

We propose the following amendment to the requirements set out in the Thesis Regulations for the Master’s Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research, which partly correspond to, but in several respects differ from, the formatting requirements for theses specified in Section VII of the Regulations of Dean’s Order No. 1/2014. (Differences are indicated in italics.)

The proposed formal requirements for Master’s theses under the Thesis Regulations for the Master’s Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research are as follows:

1. The thesis shall be written in English. At the student’s request, however, it may also be written in a foreign language with the Dean’s approval, based on the recommendation of the Head of the Institute.
2. The thesis shall be prepared on A4-size paper (29.7 cm × 21 cm), in accordance with the rules of Hungarian orthography and the terminology specified in the Brencsán Medical Dictionary (edited by Katalin Benjamin, 4th revised and extended edition, Medicina Publishing House, 2006, ISBN 963 242 990 7).
3. The document shall be single-sided; printing is permitted on one side of each sheet only.
4. The required font is Times New Roman, 12 pt.
5. Pages shall be numbered in the bottom right-hand corner, *starting from the Table of Contents*.
6. Paragraphs alignment shall be justified.
7. The margins shall be 4 cm on the left-hand side and 2.5 cm on all other sides. Line spacing shall be 1.5.
8. Numbering of chapters and sections (decimal numbering system): Chapter and subchapter headings shall be numbered automatically using the heading styles/function of the word-processing software.

9. The minimum length of the Master's thesis, calculated without spaces and *excluding the abstract, Table of Contents, reference list, figures/tables and their captions, and any other supplementary material (recommendations, acknowledgements, technical notes)*, shall be 20,000 characters and the maximum length 40,000 characters, excluding spaces. This corresponds to a minimum of 20 pages, excluding the reference list, title page, and Table of Contents.

10. The bound copy of the thesis shall have a black cover with gold lettering. The outer cover shall contain the following: the name of the University and the Faculty in the upper left-hand corner; the word "THESIS" in the centre for BSc programmes or "MASTER'S THESIS" for MSc programmes; and, in the lower right-hand corner, the name of the author, the place of study (city, e.g. Pécs), and the year in which the thesis is submitted. (Dean's Order No. 1/2014 – Appendix 2.1)

11. The inner title page shall contain the following: *in the upper left-hand section, the name of the University, Faculty, city, Institute and Department, programme, specialization, and mode of study (in bold Times New Roman, 14 pt). Below this, centred, the name of the author shall be indicated (in capital letters, Times New Roman, 18 pt), followed, also centred, by the title of the thesis (in capital letters, bold Times New Roman, 18 pt).* In the lower right-hand section, the name, position, and workplace of the thesis supervisor shall be indicated *(in bold Times New Roman, 14 pt).* *If the student's work was also supported by an internal consultant, the name, position, and workplace of the internal consultant must also be indicated below the details of the thesis supervisor. (Dean's Order No. 1/2014 – Appendix 2.2)*

12. The thesis/Master's thesis shall include a Table of Contents and a reference list. The abstract shall be placed on the page immediately following the title page, followed by the Table of Contents, including the corresponding page numbers. The Table of Contents shall be generated automatically by the word-processing software using the document's heading styles. The reference list shall be placed at the end of the thesis, before the appendices.

Structure and required content elements of the thesis

By way of derogation from Section VIII of the Regulations of Dean's Order No. 1/2014 concerning the structure and required content of the thesis, we propose the following amendments to the content, structural, and technical requirements set out in the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research.

The proposed structure and required content of the thesis under the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research are as follows:

1. **Title page**
2. **Abstract: in English. A concise summary of the work consisting of a minimum of 200 and a maximum of 350 words. Both the Hungarian and English versions must meet the minimum word count and must not exceed the maximum word count. The abstract shall conclude with 3–5 keywords.**
3. **Table of Contents:** including chapter numbers, chapter titles, and page numbers.

4. **The main chapters of the thesis should be structured in accordance with the chapters specified in the content requirements relating to the selected type of thesis topic (Sections III/A, B and C).**
5. **Acknowledgements:** acknowledgements are not required merely as a matter of courtesy. However, where an individual or organisation has made a substantive contribution to the student's work or provided meaningful assistance, such contribution should be acknowledged. The acknowledgements shall not be included in the mandatory character or page count.
6. **Appendices:** the following shall be submitted in printed form and bound together with the Master's thesis:
 - a) Copies of permissions and approvals issued by the heads of the institutions serving as research sites, where such permission is required for data collection conducted in connection with the topic of the Master's thesis.
 - b) Questionnaires, observation criteria, assessment criteria, and other research instruments used during the study, in the form in which they were actually applied, where relevant)
7. **Requirements for figures and tables:** Figures referred to in the thesis, including figures prepared by the student, shall be consecutively numbered using Arabic numerals and provided with figure captions. Tables shall be consecutively numbered using Roman numerals and provided with table captions.
8. **Reference list:** The fundamental requirements when compiling the reference list are that all sources must be retrievable and that the information derived from each source must be precisely identifiable. The reference list shall be compiled in a structured manner. Listing references in the order of their first citation in the text is recommended, although alphabetical order based on the surname of the first author is also acceptable. References may use either a numerical citation system (recommended) or an author–date citation format. Each source must appear in the reference list using its original bibliographic details and may be listed only once. The student may choose one of the following referencing styles:
 - a) APA (American Psychological Association)
 - b) ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) Vancouver Style

The reference list placed at the end of the thesis should preferably be generated using the source management and bibliography functions of the word-processing software, or, alternatively, using its endnote functions. In the latter case, particular attention must be paid to ensuring that each source appears only once in the reference list. The required formats for correctly presented references are specified in Appendix 2.3 of Dean's Order No. 1/2014.

Thesis Consultation and the Procedure for Submission, Evaluation and Defence of the Thesis.

We propose that the provisions of Sections IX and X of Dean's Order No. 1/2014 concerning thesis consultation and the procedure for the submission, evaluation and defence of the thesis shall also apply under the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research, with the following exceptions:

Section IX.2 of Dean's Order No. 1/2014 (If the thesis supervisor is an external consultant, in addition to the consultations specified above, the student is required to consult with the internal consultant on at least two further occasions. These consultations shall be recorded on a separate copy of Appendix 6.),

Section X.4.2.d (only where relevant) (Electronic files containing the calculations underlying the data and graphs presented, as well as the data table/register, if applicable, shall be included in the CALCULATIONS folder.)

Section X.9.g (The literature review does not include a sufficiently detailed review of at least five international and five Hungarian publications presenting the results of relevant research concerning the research field or closely related fields from the preceding 5–10 years; furthermore, in the case of at least five sources, the studies are not described in sufficient detail, including the aim of the study, type of research, target population, sample, place and time of the study, data collection methods, and methods of statistical analysis.)

Appendices:

Instead of Appendices 5.1 and 9.2 of Dean's Order No. 1/2014 (the Supervisor's Evaluation Form for the Research Plan and the Reviewer's Evaluation Form for the Master's Thesis), we propose that the attached documents below be used for students falling within the scope of the Thesis Regulations for the Master's Programme in Clinical Laboratory Research.

RESEARCH PLAN FOR LITERATURE REVIEW		
Student's name		Student's signature
Specialization		
Thesis title		
Supervisor (1) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Supervisor's signature
Consultant (2) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Consultant's signature
Internal Consultant (3) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Internal Consultant's signature
MAIN ASPECTS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW		
Brief summary of the problem statement, background, and rationale for topic selection		
Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the sources to be selected		
<i>Main aspects of the analysis and review (e.g. scope of the adaptation, key elements of the project description, main aspects of the case study analysis, etc.)</i>		
Potential practical applications of the research findings		
EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN		
Reviewer's written evaluation, if necessary		
Reviewer's decision	Accepted	Not accepted
Reviewer's signature		
Signature of the Head of the Institute		

Date:	
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RESEARCH PLAN FOR A TOPIC RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES		
Student's name		Student's signature
Specialization		
Thesis title		
Supervisor (1) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Supervisor's signature
Consultant (2) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Consultant's signature
Internal Consultant (3) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Internal Consultant's signature
MAIN ASPECTS OF THE ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF THE SELECTED TOPIC		
MAIN ASPECTS OF THE ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF THE SELECTED TOPIC		
Brief summary of the problem statement, background, and rationale for topic selection		
Main aspects of the analysis and presentation of the selected topic		
Potential practical applications of the research findings		
EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN		

Reviewer’s written evaluation, if necessary	
Reviewer’s decision	AcceptedNot accepted
Reviewer’s signature	
Signature of the Head of the Institute	
Date:	

RESEARCH PLAN FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH		RESEARCH PLAN FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH
Student's name		Student's signature
Specialization		
Thesis title		
Supervisor (1) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Supervisor's signature
Consultant (2) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Consultant's signature
Internal Consultant (3) Name, occupation/position, academic title, workplace		Internal Consultant's signature
INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT'S OWN RESEARCH		
Brief summary of the problem statement, background, and rationale for topic selection		
Type of research		
Place of research		
Time of research (in the case of a retrospective study, the period to be examined shall be specified)		
Target population		
Inclusion criteria		
Exclusion criteria		
Sampling method		
Planned sample size		
Data collection method		

<i>Data to be collected (variables)</i>	
Statistical methods to be applied	
Potential practical applications of the research findings	
References	
EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN	
Reviewer's written evaluation, if necessary	
Reviewer's decision	Accepted Not accepted
Reviewer's signature	
Signature of the Head of the Institute	
Date:	