

SOME ADVICE FOR EXTERNAL DEGREE PROJECTS

A degree project fulfilled with a company, a government agency or an organization usually focuses on an area or problem that the client wishes to solve. The student can contribute directly with suggestions for solutions, formed from scientific investigations, but can also contribute to the client's operations with new ideas and a different perspective.

Proprietorship and confidentiality

- The student holds the copyright to the thesis
- The client should early on discuss with the student, and possibly sign an agreement, regulating what information the student can transmit. This can comprise sensitive business information, personal information under confidentiality legislation etc.
- If an agreement is drawn it should cover who owns the results of the degree project, such as patents. If no agreement is signed, the student is the proprietor of the results. This is especially important if the student receives compensation for their work.
- The degree project is part of the student's examination and will be presented at MISU, orally and in a written report. The Stockholm University is a government agency and as such subject to the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. Hence the thesis is an official document after the examination.
- If the client wishes to classify the thesis as confidential, in entirety or in large parts, the subject might not be appropriate for a degree project. However, the student and the client can continue the collaboration outside of the scope of the education. Else, the student can submit two reports – one academic with identifying information removed, and one specifically for the use of the company.

The student and the client

- Identify what the company/ government/organization wishes to investigate or solve, and formulate a hypothesis.
- What should be fulfilled and how?
- Set a time plan for the future work, including a final deadline for the project.
- Schedule continual check-up meetings
- Will the student have a working place with the client?
- What are your mutual expectations? This is important to discuss in order to have a successful collaboration.
- Whom at the client will be the main supervisor? The supervisor must be accessible and allocate time for assistance, questions and feedback at need.
- What are the conditions to fulfil the project – how will costs for travel, material, printing, mailings etc be resolved?
- Who is the proprietor of the results?
- How will sensitive information be handled?

- Since the degree project is a part of the student's education, no reimbursement is necessary. Some clients still choose to compensate the student, e.g. for costs in connection with the work, such as travel or telephone charges. This should be agreed upon between the student and the client before the project begins, and is outside of MISU's responsibilities.

The student and the academy

- Apart from the main supervisor, a contact supervisor must be appointed within MISU. The duty of the academic supervisor is to ensure the scientific foundation of the project. For the degree project to be officially approved, it must comply with the MISU regulations for undergraduate theses on meteorology, oceanography and climate.
- The scientific hypotheses must be approved by the academic supervisor before the project plan is approved by the director of studies at MISU, and before the project begins to ensure that the student gets registered and is covered by the University insurance.