

# Final projects at the UOC

## Current regulatory framework

According to Royal Decree 1393/2007 (of 29 October, which regulates official university education in Spain), all official bachelor's and master's degrees **must** end with the **presentation** and **public defence** of an **individual** and **specialized** final project, aimed at assessment of the competencies associated with the degree.

## What, how and when?

The student must do this project during the **final stage** of the degree, and can do it over the course of one or two semesters. Each programme sets academic requirements that students must meet in order to begin the final project.

The student does not necessarily have to have passed all the other courses, but there are other requirements for enrolment on the final project course.

Bachelor's degree final projects must be worth at least 6 credits and **a maximum** of 12.5% of the total credits of the programme.

Master's degree final projects must be worth **at least** 6 credits and a **maximum** of 30.

At the UOC, final projects are worth **between 6 and 18 credits**, depending on the programme.

## Types of final projects at the UOC

There are **two types** of final project at the UOC:

- **Profession-focused**

These projects focus on describing, analysing, assessing or proposing solutions to real situations or problems linked to professional practices in a specific field (or fields) and relating to a specific discipline (or disciplines).

- **Research-focused**

These projects focus on beginning or enhancing basic or applied research, aimed at obtaining and analysing information or answering scientific problems or hypotheses, which could be rooted in more than one discipline.

## Format of the final project

According to AQU (the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency), final projects can be presented in the following formats:

- Article for an academic journal
- Essay
- Classic research report
- Product proposal or case study
- Legal opinion
- Implementation of an intervention proposal
- Research report
- Professional report
- Product report
- Report on an intervention proposal
- Bibliographic review

For the final project course on each different programme, the formats that are accepted are specified in the course plan.

## Structure of the final project

Regardless of its format, the bachelor's or master's degree final project is usually presented in two or three parts: (1) the report; (2) an associated product (only for some degree programmes, which are mostly technical), and (3) a public defence. The report typically takes the following structure (the mandatory sections are listed in bold):

- **Cover**
- Publication licence
- **Abstract (two or three languages)**
- **Keywords (two or three languages)**
- **Table of contents**
- **Introduction**
- **Objectives**
- **Methodology**

- Results
- **Discussion (consists of different items depending on the type of project)**
- **Conclusions**
- Future lines of research
- **Bibliography and webography**
- Appendices

## Presentation and defence of the final project

At the UOC, presentations or public defences of final projects take place in **audiovisual format** and last approximately ten to **twenty minutes**, depending on the programme.

Each student records a video of themselves performing a presentation of the final project they have produced, and then sends it to the course classroom. The discussion with the assessment committee, in which the student answers its questions, can be conducted asynchronously in the classroom in the following days (a maximum of two days is advisable). Final project defences for bachelor's degrees can take the following forms:

- Asynchronous public defence in the course classroom (recommended)
- Non-public synchronous individual defence by videoconference

## Presentation and defence (master's degree final projects)

Master's degree final projects at the UOC are defended in a **synchronous** and **public** format in order to ensure compliance with the university quality standards recommended by AQU in the context of the UOC's online education model.

The defences for these final projects are conducted in a live session carried out by **videoconference**, involving a conversation about the project between the student and the assessment committee. These sessions are published on a website that can be accessed by anyone in the UOC community, thus making the defence public.

## Supervision of the final project: the tutor

According to the AQU guide, the preparation process of final projects requires "support from and supervision by a tutor [...]. In general terms, the tutor provides guidance, monitors the project and advises the student in each phase of the final project: conceptualization, substantiation, methodology, writing up of results, and the defence."

The final project tutor is responsible for **guiding** the student, **monitoring** the project and **advising** the student on each aspect of the final project (the initial concept, establishing a solid basis, the methods, reporting of the results and defence of the project).

At the end of the continuous assessment period, the final project tutor issues a report, in which they explain the work done by the student during the semester and make recommendations to the assessment committee regarding questions and the final mark.