Evaluation criteria for the Master thesis

The following three categories are ranked by importance.

1. Scientific competence

• Does the candidate demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the relevant scientific literature?
• Are the aims/hypotheses/questions of the thesis clearly expressed?
• Have the methods and techniques (e. g., analytical and statistical methods, simulation methods and model setup, layout of field measurements, …) been thoroughly, yet concisely, documented? Is the documentation sufficient for the reader to reproduce the approach?
• Are previous studies and the strengths and limitations of the own work critically discussed?
• Are the results of the thesis placed in a broader context?

2. Quality of presentation

• Does the thesis have a clear structure (e. g., Introduction – Methods – Results – Discussion – Conclusions – Appendix)?
• Are the figures and tables clear, complete and appealing?
Is the text scientifically correct, clearly understandable and in a grammatically sound language?
• Have the central questions been answered?
• Do the discussion, interpretation and conclusions are supported by the results?
• Is there an informative summary/abstract?
• Is the literature list comprehensive and properly formatted?
• Is the layout of the thesis well done?

3. Commitment

• Has the candidate developed original ideas and solution strategies?
• Did the candidate tackle the task with a strong commitment?
• Has the work been carried out independently and in a focused and efficient manner?
• Has the candidate made good use of constructive criticism?