**MA Thesis Guidelines for NPSIA Students**

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**MA Thesis procedures are governed by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs (FGPA) at Carleton. Full information and regulations regarding theses can be found on FGPA’s website.** <https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/thesis-requirements/>

**NPSIA Departmental Level Guidelines**

The MA Thesis at NPSIA is a 2.0 credit option. Students wishing to pursue a thesis must identify a Supervisor and complete a proposal in Winter of their first year of study. Students normally must have an A- average to pursue this option. Information about the proposal process is provided to first year students in the fall of their first year. Proposals are approved jointly by the Supervisor and MA Associate Director.

Once approved, students must register in the thesis course continuously until it is completed, per Article 8.2 of FGPA regulations.

**Thesis Length:**

The maximum thesis word limit is 30,000 words, which is approximately 120 pages. This word limit will apply to the entire text, and includes bibliography and any appendices. Students wishing to submit longer papers must receive permission from their Supervisory team.

**Deadlines:**

Thesis deadlines are determined by FGPA. There are three deadlines each year:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submission Date  | March 1 | August 1 | December 1 |

**Formatting:**

Thesis formatting requirements are specified by by FGPA. Full information can be found here:

[**https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/thesis-requirements/formatting-guidelines/**](https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/thesis-requirements/formatting-guidelines/)

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**Examination Process:**

Information about the examination process can be found on the FGPA website. When you are ready to defend, the office will provide you with a document outlining the process in detail.