Thesis

Institution:	Joint program component
Year:	Year 2
Course type:	Core program component: research component
ECTS:	20

Brief description (including learning outcomes): Mundus MAPP includes a significant research training and an independent research component, preparing students for further studies and/or jobs requiring research skills following their graduation. Students start to work on their thesis by compiling a review of the relevant literature, a methods section, and a substantial research proposal in the form of a "Thesis Report", to be submitted in the first academic year. Building on the Thesis Report, students continue their project in year 2 and submit a thesis at the end of the academic year.

The thesis is individually supervised and designed to assess more advanced skills of independent research. It is supported by a workshop, participation at which is assessed through an oral examination. The thesis is a 12,000 word-long paper (+/-10%, all included except for bibliography), with all the attributes of a scholarly work presented in accordance with IBEI or York thesis guidelines (depending on student track). If a significant change in the topic occurs in the course of the work (as compared to the Thesis Report), the student needs to secure approval from both supervisors. If the changed topic falls outside the expertise of the original supervisors, it will not be approved.

The thesis is due by July 31st of the second year (for exact time of submission, check with the local institution) and is jointly graded by the two supervisors (or in the case of York, another member of faculty) each contributing half the final grade. Students receive detailed comments from the examiners, and a single grade allocated in the Mundus MAPP (ECTS) grading scheme.

In order to avoid a significant overlap between the Thesis Report and the thesis and to measure the progress the students have made after completing the first project, the Thesis Report is also to be submitted as an additional annex to the thesis (not included in the word count of the thesis).

As part of the thesis requirement, students also need to pass an oral final examination (defense). The defense will take place in the days (or week) following thesis submission. The defense will provide the opportunity for students to summarize their core argument, and for members of the defense committee to ask questions, thereby testing student's oral and argumentation skills. A member of the committee who is of a senior academic rank chairs the committee. The defense is graded with Pass or Fail only, which will be communicated to the student on the day of the defense. A passing grade is required both in the oral defense and for the thesis itself for fulfilling the thesis requirement as a whole.

By completing the thesis, students will:

- acquire knowledge of the main theoretical and conceptual debates in their chosen field;

- Be able to undertake independent research and data analysis;
- Be able to develop robust and sustained written analyses and arguments;
- Be able to orally defend their arguments and ideas.