Thesis Formatting @ UNIGE

- The thesis needs to be printed in A4 format.
- The thesis front page must be the one provided on the LNDS website.
- The legal names need to be printed first. Married candidates must show their maiden name if they are registered at the University under that name.
- The country of origin is printed under the family name. Swiss citizens must provide the city of origin, with the name of the “canton” in brackets.
- The final version of the thesis needs to show the thesis number, provided by the LNDS coordinator, under the place of origin. This number will be provided after a successful oral exam and after scheduling the date for the public defense. In a preliminary title page (i.e. produced before the number has been provided) “XXX” replaces the thesis number.
- The place where the thesis was published, the name of the editor (optional), and the year of publication are indicated at the bottom of the front page.
- The “imprimatur” page provided by the Dean’s office of your faculty after successful thesis defense should be inserted after the title page (scanned pages are allowed)
- If the thesis consists of published articles, the references for these publications have to be mentioned on a separate page, immediately after the imprimatur page.
- The text shown in the title page and the imprimatur must be written in French. If the thesis is written in English, a two-page summary in French has to be included.

How to organize a thesis with published articles:

To write a thesis with articles one needs to have at least 1-2 articles published, accepted for publication or at least accepted for review, in peer-reviewed journals. Only if the student’s contribution is significant, the article will be considered as part of the thesis. The chapters of the results section can be composed of the articles.

A thesis with articles should be structured as follows:
  - Official title page, to download from the LNDS website.
  - Imprimatur page (provided by the Dean’s office after the public defense)
  - Acknowledgements
  - Abstract (in English & French)
  - Introduction (20 pages minimum)
  - Brief summary of the results, indicating precisely the student’s contribution to each article
  - Discussion (10-20 pages)
  - References
  - Articles

How to organize a thesis without published articles:

- Official title page, to download from the LNDS website
- Imprimatur page (provided by the dean after the public defense)
- Acknowledgements
- Abstract (in English & French)
The following points need to be kept in mind when writing a thesis with or without articles:

- The thesis official title page can be downloaded from the LNDS website.
- The Imprimatur page has to immediately follow the title page in the final thesis version. This can be a high-quality scan of the original Imprimatur page (please note that the quality of a jpg-image is often not sufficient).
- A good introduction should show that the student has acquired a broad knowledge of the previous and ongoing research in the field. Appropriate referencing is required.
- A good discussion should express critical thinking and incorporate the acquired knowledge:
  - The results should be discussed in light of others’/previous results.
  - It provides an overall analysis of the publications reviewed.
  - It should analyze the quality and limitations of the results.
  - It formulates conclusions and addresses future perspectives.
- Students registered at the FPSE can get partially reimbursed for the thesis printing expenses. Please contact Sonia Sturm (secretary of the Dean’s office at the FPSE - 022 379 90 02) and send her the original bill.

If you have questions regarding the format of your thesis or the procedure do not hesitate to contact the LNDS coordinator.