



**Guidelines for Writing Thesis by M.Sc. (Ag.) Agronomy/Soil Science /Genetics and Plant Breeding/M.Sc. (Hort.) Fruit Science/Vegetable Science**

Research thesis is an essential and important part of the M. Sc. (Ag.) Agronomy/Soil Science/Genetics and Plant Breeding/M.Sc. (Hort.) Fruit Science/Vegetable Science curriculum, which helps in developing knowledge and understanding of present scenario. For M.Sc. students, the research thesis is an exposure to the practical research world. This will also give the PG students an opportunity to work and improve on his/her skills.

**IMPORTANT POINTS:**

1. PG Agriculture students are required to prepare a Thesis on their Research topics with the help of their respective faculty guides (Advisor/Co-Advisor and others) which have been allotted to them. You have to meet your respective faculty guides on weekly basis.
2. Students have to decide a topic on which they have to prepare a research thesis. The topic has to be approved by their respective faculty guides and has to be submitted to their respective course coordinators.
3. The research thesis must have an appropriate title. (Students should meet their respective guides and finalize a title for their Research topic as early as possible, after the Advisor allotment).
4. Report has to be systematically written as per standard guidelines given by the Integral Institute of Agriculture Science and Technology (IIAST) as and when required. The report should be of 80-100 pages including figures, tables and graphs etc. **Each page should carry statement of identification and page number, using header & footer application.**
5. **No two or more reports could be identical even if the organization and project is common. Each student should write a separate report and clearly mention his/her individual contribution.**
8. A single spiral copy of the complete thesis should be submitted to the concerned subject course coordinator who will further forward the same to PG course coordinator.
9. After evaluation and corrections incorporated in the thesis, five hard bound copies are to be printed and after completion of all signatures; the student may retain a copy for himself/herself. Rest four copies will be submitted to the concerned course coordinator.



**The thesis should be arranged in following manner:**

1. Cover page (see *format attached*)
2. Title page
3. Certificate-by Advisor
4. Certificate-by Committee
5. Deceleration
6. Acknowledgment
7. Contents or Index
8. List of tables
9. List of figures
10. Abbreviations
11. Chapter 1. Introduction
12. Chapter 2. Literature Review
13. Chapter 3. Material & Methods
14. Chapter 4. Results
15. Chapter 5. Discussion
16. Chapter 6. Summary & Conclusion
17. Abstract
18. References
19. Appendix (if any)
20. Plagiarism Report

**Color of Thesis:** The thesis cover page shall be Dark Blue with golden text. The spine of hard bound thesis to be submitted should have the following things in golden text in the exact order:

M.Sc. (Ag./Hort.) Program Name	Enrollment No.	Name	Year
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**Page Dimensions and Dimensional Margins:** The thesis should be typed on Standard A4 size (297 mm X 210 mm) sheets.

Top edge	30 to 35 mm
Bottom edge	25 to 30 mm
Left side	35 to 40 mm
Right side	20 to 25 mm

The thesis should be prepared on good quality white paper preferably no less than 75 gsm. Tables and figures should be prepared on same type of paper and should also conform to the margin specifications. Large size figures should be photographically or otherwise reduced to the appropriate size before insertion.

**Font Type and Size:** The font style should be Times New Roman, font size 12 and line spacing of 2.0 should be used for typing the general text in the thesis. The same font should be used uniformly throughout the thesis, unless otherwise mentioned. A sub-heading at the bottom of a page must have at least two full lines below it or else it should be carried over to the next page. The last word of any page should not be split using a hyphen. Single spacing should be used for typing long tables, long quotations, footnotes multiline captions for tables or figures and references. All quotations exceeding one line should be typed in indented space; the indentation should be 15 mm from the margin.

**Reference Citations in Text:** APA utilizes a system of brief referencing in the text of a paper, whether one is paraphrasing or providing a direct quotation from another author's work. Citations in the text usually consist of the name of the author(s) and the year of publication.

- **Indirect Quotation with Parenthetical Citation**

Libraries historically value intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality (LaRue, 2007).

- **Indirect Quotation with Author as Part of the Narrative**

LaRue (2007) identified intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality as two key values held historically by libraries.

In case of more than 2 author's, it should be cited in the text as **Could et al. (1991)**.

**Bibliography:** A bibliography provides an alphabetical list of sources that may have been used in order to complete your research work. Bibliography should be in alphabetical order, typed in double line spacing using font type Times New Roman and font size 12. All the books, Journals, magazines, websites, etc. referred to, during the course of research work, should be mentioned here.

**Print Journals:**

Single Author-

Author A. A. (Publication Year). Article title. *Journal Name*, *Volume* (Issue), pp.-pp.

Double/Multiple Author-

Author A. A, & Author, A. A. (Publication Year). Article title. *Journal Name*, *Volume* (Issue), pp.-pp.

Example:

Single Author-

Cowling, W. A. (2013). Sustainable plant breeding. *Plant Breeding*, 132(1), 1-9.

Double/Multiple Author-

Moose, S. P., & Mumm, R. H. (2008). Molecular plant breeding as the foundation for 21st century crop improvement. *Plant Physiology*, 147(3), 969-977.

**Online Journals:**

Author, A. A. (Publication Year). Article title. *Journal Name*, *Volume* (Issue), pp.-pp. doi:XX.XXXXX or Retrieved from journal URL

Example:

Khaskheli, M. A., Nizamani, M. M., Tarafder, E., Das, D., Nosheen, S., Muhae-Ud-Din, G., Khaskheli, R. A., Ren, M. J., Wang, Y., & Yang, S. W. (2025). Sustainable Management of Major Fungal Phytopathogens in Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L.) for Food Security: A Comprehensive Review. *Journal of Fungi*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof11030207>

**Books:**

Author, A. A. (Year of Publication). Title of work. Publisher, State, Publisher City. pp.

Example:

Janick, J. (Ed.). (2012). *Plant Breeding Reviews, Volume 36/Edition 36*. John Wiley & Sons, USA, New York. pp. 652.

**Books found in a Database/e-book:**

Author, A. A. (Year of Publication). Title of work. Retrieved from <http://xxxx> or [doi:xxxx](https://doi.org/xxxx)

Example:

Sayre, A., Rebecca K., Devercelli, A. E., Neuman, M. J., & Wodon, Q. (2015). Investment in early childhood development: Review of the world bank's recent experience. Doi: 10.1596/978-1-4648-0403-8.

**Book Chapter:**

Author, A.A. (Publication of Year). Name of the Titles. Chapter Name. In: Author, B. B., Author, C. C. (Eds.) Book Name, Publisher, Place, pp.

Example:

Shelef, O., Fernández-Bayo, J. D., Sher, Y., Ancona, V., Slinn, H., & Achmon, Y. (2018). Elucidating local food production to identify the principles and challenges of sustainable agriculture. In: Galanakis, C.M. (Ed.), *Sustainable Food Systems from Agriculture to Industry*, Academic Press, Cambridge, London, pp. 47-81.