

MA PROJECT OPTION 1: THESIS

The thesis is a full explication of a significant research problem using primary sources (interviews, archives or analogous materials) and substantive secondary sources. The thesis is based on one's own research project in Latin America. Committee members will evaluate your thesis based on the following four categories: High Pass, Pass, Low Pass and Fail.

Expected length: 80-100 pages

1

During the first semester, discuss potential thesis topics and committee members in consultation with your faculty advisor.

2

During the second semester, establish a thesis committee and identify a research topic. By March 15, submit a 1-page, double-spaced **MA Project statement** to Colin Deeds and your committee chair in which you provide the names of the committee members and the roles they will fulfill and briefly explain your thesis research topic. By mid-March, submit a **Tinker Field Research Grant** proposal. You should also email a copy of your Tinker proposal to your thesis committee chair.

3

During the summer, conduct your research.

4

During the third semester, submit a **thesis prospectus** to your entire committee by October 15. The prospectus should be 5 double-spaced pages and include a thesis abstract, preliminary chapter outline, and a preliminary bibliography.

5

During the fourth semester, **set a defense date** by March 15 and finish writing your thesis. The thesis defense date must be scheduled with sufficient time so that the student can complete any required revisions before the end of the semester. The thesis should be sent to committee members at least two weeks prior to the defense date. Thesis formatting guidelines can be found on the Graduate College website: <https://grad.arizona.edu/gsas/dissertations-theses/dissertation-and-thesis-formatting-guides>

6

Defend your thesis. During the defense, you will meet with your committee. You will give a short presentation and respond to comments from committee members. Committee members will discuss with the student any revisions that must be completed before the thesis can be filed with the Graduate College. After the defense, collect signatures from your committee members on the Report of Thesis Defense Form and give it to Colin Deeds.

7

Archive the final draft of your thesis with the University of Arizona Campus Repository. Follow instructions on the Graduate College website: <https://grad.arizona.edu/gsas/dissertations-theses/submitting-and-archiving-your-thesis>