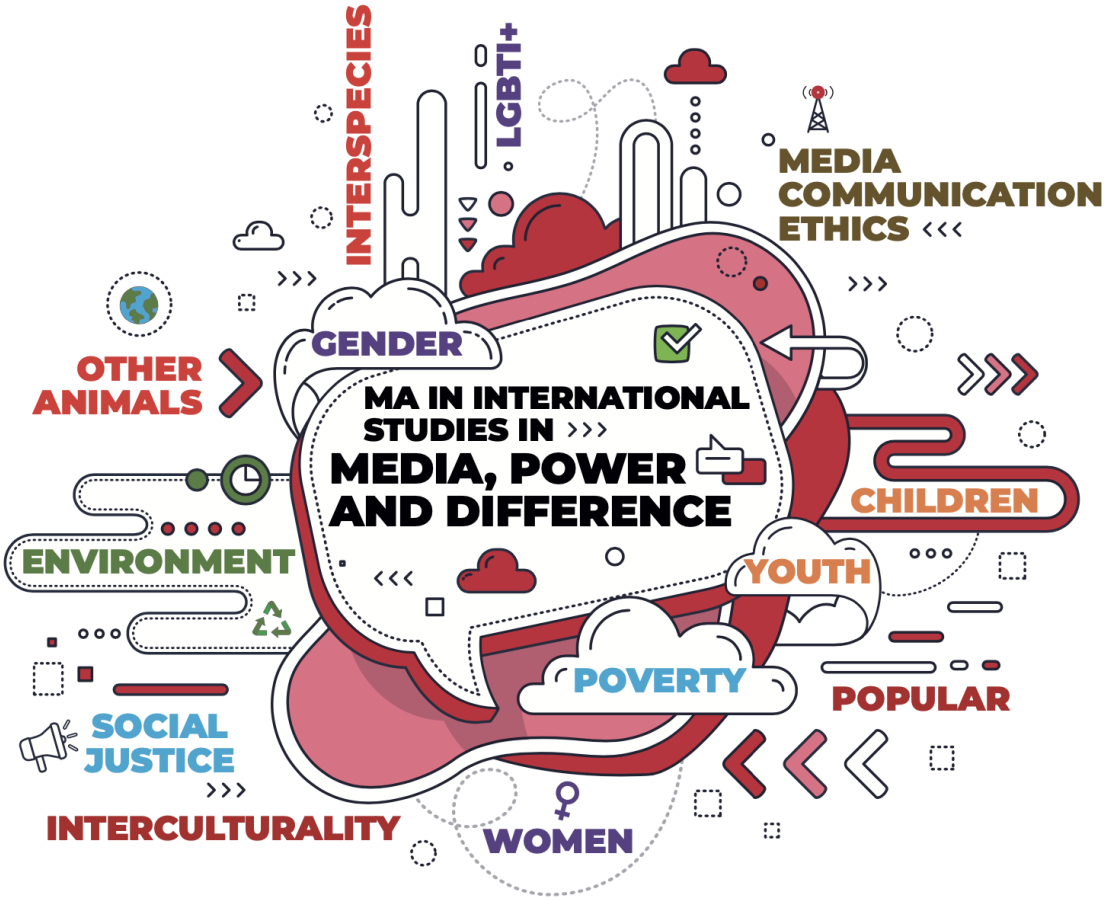
MA in International Studies in Media, Power and Difference

Department of Communication

Dissertation Guidelines 2026-2027

(dates subject to confirmation)

https://www.upf.edu/web/mediapoweranddifference/treball-de-fi-de-master



CONTENTS

1. General Information 3

2. Formal requirements 6

3. Supervision process 7

4. Types of final project 8

Type 1. Theoretical 9

Type 2. Research-based 11

Type 3. Applied or practice-based 13

Type 4. Challenge-based 15

5. Self-assessment of the project's ethics issues 16

6. Submission of proposals 16

7. Oral presentations procedure 17

8. Assessment rubrics 19

For Type 1 and Type 2 projects 19

Fort Type 3 and Type 4 projects 22

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The 15 ECTS of the Master's Final Project have to be passed through the submission of a work in order to show the student's research skills. The project has also to be presented in a public dissertation session in front of a committee made up of three doctor lecturers.

1.1 Objective

The Master's Final Project has the objective to prove the intellectual maturity and the research skills of the student. It has to be an original project, as a result of the personal work of the student under the guidance of a supervisor.

1.2 Dedication of the student

The dedication of the student for the Master's Final Project is of 375 hours. These hours include the work of literature review, sample collection if required, research time, the discussion with the supervisor and the writing of the project.

1.3 The supervisor

The Master's Final Project is carried out under the monitoring of a supervisor, which is assigned to the student by the coordinator during the second term.

Eligible supervisor are the doctors who give teaching in the Master, the doctors of the Department, doctors of UPF as co-supervisor with a doctor from the Department, doctors outside UPF as co-supervisor with a doctor from the Department.

1.4 Submission's Deadline

The project must be submitted by midnight on **14 June 2027 (subject to confirmation)**.

Delays won't be admitted. All the students which won't deliver or pass the Master's Final Project will be able to register it in the next academic year, provided that they fulfil the requirements about continuity and number of calls. Please note this involves a fees surcharge.

1.5 Language

The project can be written in English, Spanish or Catalan. The oral presentations can be conducted also in any of these three languages.

1.6 Dissertation's Deadline

The Project will be defended publicly in front of an assessment committee made up of three doctor lecturers.

The public dissertation defence will take place between **29 June and 2 July 2027 (subject to confirmation)**.

All the doctor lecturers in the Department will be able to access the project during the period between the delivery and the public dissertation.

1.7 Submission documentation:

All submission procedures must be completed through the master's programme Moodle area: https://aulaglobal.upf.edu/course/view.php?id=96464

Students must complete the following steps **directly in Moodle**:

- **Submission form:** Complete the Master's Final Project submission form available in Moodle.
- **TFM document:** Upload one PDF copy of the Master's Final Project to Moodle, using the file name **TFM_Name_FamilyName.pdf** (maximum file size: 100 MB).

Both steps are mandatory and must be completed through Moodle.

1.8 Publication of the Project

Projects awarded an excellent mark (9 or above) may be published in RECERCAT, the Catalan digital research repository, for public dissemination. Students who have achieved this mark and wish to publish their Master's Final Project in the repository must submit a formal request through the University's Electronic Office (*Seu electrònica*). To complete this procedure, students must first visit the Student Information Point (PIE) to obtain their idCAT digital identification.

Students can provide a final version of their project for publication if typos and other minor issues need to be corrected.

1.9 Assessment

The final evaluation of the dissertation will be done through the presentation and oral defence. The examination committee will be made up of three research and teaching members of the Department of Communication at the UPF. The committee will issue a grade that will have to take into account the following elements:

• Quality of the project (75% of the final grade of the tribunal)

• Oral presentation (25% of the final grade of the tribunal)

In the quality of the project, the committee will also take into account the evaluation of the tutor. This includes for each student:

• Participation in tutoring sessions (in-person or virtual)

• Compliance to the working plan and timing

In the case of group projects, the final grade will add an individual assessment of each member of the team, regarding the specific part(s) led by each of them, with a weight of 50%. For this to happen, it is compulsory that group final projects make very clear what is the work done by each student, including what section(s) have what student as leading author:

This is a visual summary of the assessment according to work types:

Individual dissertation assessment		
Quality of the project	75%	**Final mark for the student**
Oral presentation	25%	

Group project assessment					
Group assessment	Quality of the project	75%	Group grade	50%	**Final mark for the student**
	Oral presentation	25%			
Individual assessment	Quality of the individual work led by the student	100%	Individual grade	50%	

For the calculation of the final grade, none of the qualifications may be less than 4.

For more details on the criteria used by the committee to assess both the project and the presentation please check section 5 in this document.

1.10 Committee

- The supervisor of the project (as chair of the committee)

- Two doctors chosen by the coordinator of the programme and the Department of Communication.

2. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Cover and first page

All types of final project must include:

1) Cover page with:

- Title of the document
- Author or authors' name
- Supervisor
- Publication date: **Academic Year 20--/--**
- The name of the collection: **Research Project of the MA in International Studies on Media, Power, and Difference**
- Name of the sub-community: **Department of Communication**
- Name of the University: **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**

2) First page with:

- Abstract: maximum 150-word length in the same language of the Project
- Keywords: a list of keywords about the content, with a maximum length of 200 characters
- Type of the project (Theoretical Dissertation, Research Dissertation, Applied project, Challenge-based project)

2.2 Digital file

The document must be uploaded in PDF format. If there are some annexes, they must be embedded in the text file. **The size limit per file must be inferior to 100MB**.

A second file can be uploaded if necessary for supplementary material (audio/video recordings, extra images, etc.). Standard formats are recommended.

3. SUPERVISION PROCESS

The Supervisor's role is to assist the student in the development of a suitable project and methodology. For Project types 1, 2 and 3, the supervisor is neither going to provide a topic nor to tell the student what to research. Yet the supervisor will assist the students in the project design, research and writing.

Students must agree with the supervisor on the most suitable points of contact (office, video-meeting, email) and a timetable for delivery of draft chapters and for working sessions.

The supervision process will consist of at least **three working sessions** where the supervisor will:

- Assist in the project design.
- Point in the direction of useful sources and references.
- Provide feedback and advice for initial drafts (including single chapters, questionnaires, interview guides, etc.).
- Comment once upon final drafts of dissertations (they must be delivered well in advanced of the final project submission date; each supervisor will provide a deadline for this and will review the final draft only once).

Students will:

- Be proactive in contacting their supervisors to arrange a schedule and working plan, delivering drafts, etc.
- Be properly prepared for each supervision session by having a clear idea of the ground they want to cover and the questions they want to ask .
- Submit their best work to the supervisor, even if the material is ‘in draft’ –the supervisor may return work that is not properly checked for spelling and grammar, or is not properly referenced.
- Not expect the supervisor to correct spelling and grammatical mistakes or to do proof-reading.
- Avoid emailing large quantities of text two days before a deadline with a request for comments and critique the next day.

4. TYPES OF FINAL PROJECT

The Master's Final Project (TFM) involves students carrying out a project in which they apply, integrate and develop the knowledge, skills, competences and abilities acquired during the Master's degree. The dissertation may constitute a novel contribution to the development of the *theory* and *practice* of communication on diversity and difference:

> By *theory development* we mean the generation of general or specific knowledge either through theoretical reflections or empirical and ethnographic methodologies. We refer to this here as basic research. There are two types of it: **theoretical dissertations** and **research-based dissertations**. These are all individual projects.
>
> By *practice development* we mean both practice-oriented research and research developed through practice (practice-based research, action research, creative research, etc.), whose methodologies may also include theoretical grounding and empirical or ethnographic development. We refer to this here as applied or **practice-related research**. These can be individual or group projects.

In addition to proposals that may come from students, the master's degree coordination may propose at least one group final project proposal each year (called "Challenges"), which will be linked to an external entity to the master's degree. Therefore, there are four eligible types of projects in this programme. Students must adhere to one type:

Type 1. *Theoretical Dissertation* (individual)

Type 2. *Research-based Dissertation* (individual)

Type 3. *Applied or practice-oriented project* (individual or in group)

Type 4. *Supervisor-proposed project* (individual)

REGARDING THE TOPICS OF CHOICE: Please note that all dissertations must make an innovative contribution to the issues of **communicating diversity and difference** as addressed in this programme.

What follows are the requested structure for each type:

Type 1. THEORETICAL DISSERTATION (individual)

A theoretical or non-empirical dissertation focuses on secondary research – you use data collected and presented by other researchers to develop an argument. This type of dissertation doesn't have any data of your own; it is entirely literature-based. This is likely to be the methodology of theoretical analysis: selection and discussion of theoretical and descriptive material, in context, and detailed comparison of theories in terms of their applicability. The focus is not so much on discovering something about the social world as on reaching a judgement about the value of key concepts or theories for understanding that world. There are few formal constraints on this type of dissertation, but theoretical essays should at least include and apply:

a) **Introduction**. This should include:

- An introduction to the specific topic chosen and a justification of its importance, novelty and academic relevance within the field of communication.
- A general description of the state of the question of the topic to be researched.
- An introduction to your argument, i.e. your main aim and research question(s) or specific aims. Be mindful to avoid duplications. You can present your research questions either directly as questions or as specific aims, stick to one format only.
- An outline of the structure of the dissertation.

b) **State of the question**. If necessary, a more developed state of the question (the problem addressed) can be included in a new section. The state of the question refers to the current understanding, scholarly discussion, and key research findings related to a specific academic question or topic.

b) **Literature review**. This should include:

- Discussing the main themes/ideas that are explicit or implicit in your general aim and research questions/specific aims by presenting and commenting on a selection of relevant literature.
- Most of the literature reviewed should be primary sources, academic reflections or empirical studies.
- Most of the reviewed literature should be from the last ten years.

c) **Developing your argument.** In a theoretical essay this can be done:

- At the same time as the literature review (e.g. if your aim is to compare authors and ideas)
- In a separate section (e.g. if your aim is to build on the authors and ideas discussed in the literature review). In this case, the argument must still be developed in the context of the literature review.

d) **Conclusion**. This is the final section and it should include:

- In theoretical essays, the discussion section is usually embedded in the development of the argument. If this is not the case, you should include a discussion of your findings here or in a separate section before the conclusions.
- The conclusions of your essay should build on your previous argumentation and provide a clear answer to the research questions/specific aims, together with an explanation of how the main aim of the essay has been achieved.
- Acknowledge any limitations and suggest future research if not covered in the research design section.
- Summarize your work's contribution to the communication field.

f) **List of references**: A final list of all references used in the paper should be included at the end. Please apply the following:

- All references used throughout the paper should be included.
- Only references cited in the paper should be included.
- References must be listed alphabetically without bullets.
- Chicago author-date style must be used.

Please refer to the master's guidelines for further details on how to write an academic paper, how to do a literature review and how to apply Chicago s author-date tyle.

Length: The Dissertation must be between 9,000 and 12,000 words (references included; appendixes not included).

Sources: At least 20 different sources should be cited and, when discussing published sources, they should be referred to in the past tense.

Ethical considerations: Include a statement acknowledging the use of AI, following the Master's guidelines for doing this.

Type 2. RESEARCH-BASED DISSERTATION (individual)

This type of dissertation consists of empirical research on a topic and is presented in the form of a typical research paper. This dissertation contains empirical results of any kind (from text/image analysis, surveys, interviews, documentary observation, ethnography, etc.). It must contain at least the following sections:

a) **Introduction**. This should include:

- An introduction to the specific topic chosen and a justification of its importance, novelty and academic relevance within the field of communication.
- A general description of the state of the question of the topic to be researched.
- An introduction to your argument, i.e. your main aim and research question(s) or specific aims. Be mindful to avoid duplications. You can present your research questions either directly as questions or as specific aims, stick to one format only.
- An outline of the structure of the dissertation.

b) **State of the question**. If necessary, a more developed state of the question (the problem addressed) can be included in a new section. The state of the question refers to the current understanding, scholarly discussion, and key research findings related to a specific academic question or topic.

b) **Literature review**. This should include:

- Discussing the main themes/ideas that are explicit or implicit in your general aim and research questions/specific aims by presenting and commenting on a selection of relevant literature.
- Most of the literature reviewed should be primary sources, academic reflections or empirical studies.
- Most of the reviewed literature should be from the last ten years.

c) Research design: It is a good idea to start this section by reminding the reader what your research problem (the main aim of your dissertation) is and what your research questions or specific aims are. Then provide all the details to describe the method applied (how you have proceeded), including:

- *Type of Research*: Describe whether the study is qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods
- *Study Setting*: Detail the location and context where the research takes place, which is particularly important for fieldwork or case studies.
- *Sampling Method*: Explain how participants or data sources were selected, including sample size, and the rationale for this choice.
- *Data Collection Methods*: Describe the tools and procedures used for gathering data, such as surveys, interviews, observations, or archival research.
- *Data Analysis*: Outline the techniques and processes used to analyse the data, including any software or statistical methods.

- *Ethical Considerations*: Address ethical issues related to the study, including informed consent and how participant confidentiality is maintained. Include a statement acknowledging the use of AI, following the Master's guidelines for doing this.
- *Limitations*: Acknowledge any limitations in your research design that might impact the results or generalizability of the study. This can be included also at the end of the conclusions.
- *Time Frame*: If relevant, provide the time frame over which the data was collected.

d) **Results**. This section presents the results of your data analysis. Please note that:

- It should clearly explain how the data are presented to answer the research questions or specific aims, so that the results are directly related to the aims of the study.
- It is strongly recommended to use tables, figures or pictures to present the results. All should be numbered, self-explanatory, self-contained, discussed in the text and show patterns and trends.
- The presentation of results should be clear and concise, and evaluative statements should be avoided.

d) **Conclusion**. This is the final section and it should include:

- You should include a discussion of your findings here or in a separate section before the conclusions.
- The conclusions of your essay should build on your previous argumentation and provide a clear answer to the research questions/specific aims, together with an explanation of how the main aim of the essay has been achieved.
- Acknowledge any limitations and suggest future research if not covered in the research design section.
- Summarize your work's contribution to the communication field.

f) **List of references**: A final list of all references used in the paper should be included at the end. Please apply the following:

- All references used throughout the paper should be included.
- Only references cited in the paper should be included.
- References must be listed alphabetically without bullets.
- Chicago author-date style must be used.

Please refer to the master's guidelines for further details on how to write an academic paper, how to do a literature review and how to apply Chicago author-date style.

Length: The Dissertation must be between 9,000 and 12,000 words (references included; appendixes not included).

Sources: At least 20 different sources should be cited and, when discussing published sources, they should be referred to in the past tense.

Type 3. APPLIED OR PRACTICE-ORIENTED PROJECT (individual or in group)

An **applied project** refers to a practical, real-world project where students apply theoretical knowledge to solve a specific problem or create something tangible. It involves integrating academic concepts with practical implementation, often resulting in deliverables such as campaigns, prototypes, or solutions tailored to industry needs.

A **practice-oriented project**, on the other hand, emphasizes the hands-on creation of content or products, where students develop original works that reflect their professional skills. This could include creative outputs like audiovisual productions, technological innovations, or artistic installations, just as a matter of example. These projects are designed to demonstrate the student's ability to execute and present professional-quality work relevant to the field of communication. The practice-oriented project may also include just a prototype or a design plan of the creative output.

Both approaches encourage innovation and creativity, allowing students to showcase their applied skills in their chosen communication medium.

This type of project should follow the structure and orientation of a research report, complemented by deliverables such as a design document, audiovisual work, or artistic piece. It is especially suitable for demonstrating outcomes derived from methodologies like research-creation, action research, or similar approaches that blend practical creation with academic inquiry.

Projects of this modality can be carried out **individually or in group**, maximum 3 members (**group work is encouraged**). In case of group projects, the final evaluation will include both an individual mark (50%) and a group, shared mark (50%).

This type of project will result in a final document with two clearly differentiated blocks, one related to the theoretical and research work, and another related to the creative part.

Block I: General foundations, theory and research. This block should include the following sections (this is adaptable to the particularities of the project according to the supervisor's criteria, but it is understood that most of these aspects should be addressed in some way):

a) **General introduction to the project**, clearly explaining the theory/research dimension and the applied or practice-based dimension, and the interrelationships between the two dimensions.

b) **Theoretical foundations** (in group projects this section must be signed individually, by the main author).

c) **Literature review / state of the art** (including experimental/creative references, if applicable) (in group projects this section must be signed individually, by the main author).

d) **Methodology** (including methodology for research/analysis and regarding production/creation processes).

e) **Results** (in group projects this part must be signed individually by the main author; if it includes several subsections, each one of them must be signed individually by the main author).

f) **Discussion/conclusions.**

List of references: A final list of all references used in this block should be included at the end. Please apply the following:

- All references used throughout the paper should be included.
- Only references cited in the paper should be included.
- References must be listed alphabetically without bullets.
- Chicago author-date style must be used.

Please refer to the master's guidelines for further details on how to apply Chicago author-date style.

Block II: Creative output or design. This refers to either a piece of creative work (a deliverable) or a just a prototype or a design plan of the creative output, showing the ideation and creative planning of the proposed piece(s) of work.

According to the particularities of each project, the tutor will guide students in the details of the structure and format of this block. In the event that more than one student has participated in this part of the project, it is important that each individual sign at least one section of this block as the lead author, in accordance with the supervisor's considerations.

If a final piece of work or a prototype is delivered, a specific section must be added with the following information:

- **Introduction/clarifications** on what you are including;
- **Link to a Drive folder**, previously created by the student/s, which must include an executable file or a link to the piece of work (if accessible online).

Students who are unable to produce a final deliverable for their creative project must submit:

- A comprehensive **project proposal**, which may take the form of a **design document**, **storyboard**, **script**, or **report**, depending on the nature of the project. The document should clearly describe the concept, objectives, methodologies, timeline, and the technical or creative processes involved in the proposed work.

In the case of projects oriented to participatory / action research, the Block II is not necessary, and it may be replaced by other types of content, to be assessed with the supervisor (for example, a report on the actions/interventions, in a researcher/s diary format or similar).

Appendix: In group projects, the following appendix must be added: "Personal considerations on the individual contributions". Every student must write a 300-600 words summary and personal reflection on his/her most significant contributions to the work (not necessarily limited to the sections explicitly signed as the main author).

Length: between 4,000 and 12,000 words (references included; appendixes not included).

Type 4. SUPERVISOR-PROPOSED PROJECT (individual)

This modality aims to help students identify suitable topics for their Master's Final Project by offering both specific project proposals and broader research areas suggested by potential supervisors. These proposals reflect the supervisors' current research interests, including topics they are actively investigating or wish to explore further within ongoing or forthcoming research projects. They offer students opportunities to engage with contemporary research and contribute to the development of existing lines of inquiry.

These suggestions are intended as guidance rather than a restrictive list. Students remain free to develop their own research ideas and are not required to choose from the proposed topics.

For the 2026–2027 academic year, the list includes one specific project proposal and broader research areas suggested by five potential supervisors:

Supervisor-Proposed Research Topics and Project - Academic Year 2026–2027	
Núria Almiron **Specific project proposal**	**Guidelines for Reducing Speciesist Language in Marine Conservation**: This project involves developing a set of recommendations and practical guidelines aimed at identifying and reducing speciesist language in the field of marine conservation. Students interested in marine conservation, communication, and language are encouraged to explore this topic from a non-speciesist and non-anthropocentric perspective. The research will be conducted within the framework of the **UPF-Centre for Animal Ethics**. The Centre will use the findings of the Master's Final Project to develop a practical guide for public dissemination, with the student author receiving appropriate credit and acknowledgment for their contribution.
Mittzy Arciniega **Encouraged research Areas**	**Imaginaries of Care, Youth, and Masculinity**: Exploring how care, gender, and masculinity are represented, understood, and negotiated among young people, particularly through media and communication practices. **Young People, Disinformation, and Influencers**: Investigating the relationships between young audiences, digital influencers, and disinformation, including how social media environments shape perceptions, beliefs, and information practices.
Pilar Medina **Encouraged research Area**	**Communication, Mental Health, and Feminist Perspectives**: Exploring mental health and emotional distress through feminist and intersectional approaches, with particular attention to how communication and media representations reflect, reinforce, or challenge gender inequalities. Potential research directions include: • Media representations of women's emotional experiences and mental health. • The pathologizing of structural distress and gender biases in media narratives. • Influencer culture, wellness discourses, toxic positivity, and the individualization of well-being.

	• Feminist and patriarchal representations of mental health in television, film, and literature. • Digital spaces as platforms for politicizing emotional distress and challenging dominant mental health narratives.
Carles Roca **Encouraged research Area**	**Empirical Research in Communication and Social Interaction**: Professor Carles Roca welcomes proposals involving empirical research across a broad range of communication-related topics, with a particular interest in interpersonal communication and social interaction.
Roberto Sánchez **Encouraged research Areas**	**Media Culture, Identities, Representations, and Subjectivities:** Exploring how media culture shapes identities, representations, and subjectivities, with particular attention to how individuals and social groups construct meaning and negotiate their identities through media. A key focus is the role of media in reproducing or challenging inequalities and processes of exclusion affecting vulnerable or marginalized groups. **Digital Media and Learners' Individual and Collective Well-Being:** Examining how digital media practices and environments influence learners' well-being, social relationships, and educational experiences. Particular attention is given to learners in situations of vulnerability and to the ways digital media may reinforce or mitigate existing inequalities. **Critical Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education:** Investigating the pedagogical, ethical, and social implications of artificial intelligence in higher education, including its impact on teaching practices, learning experiences, and educational inequalities. Special attention is given to vulnerable or disadvantaged students and the potential of AI to reproduce or challenge existing inequalities.
Christopher Tulloch **Encouraged research Areas**	**Media, Journalism, and Social Justice:** Research proposals are welcome in areas related to critical journalism studies, media representations, and social inequalities. Potential topics include: • Protest movements and their representation in the press. • The invisibility of poverty in news coverage. • Media coverage of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. • Human rights and refugee representation in the media. • Media representations of Islam, Africa, and the Middle East. • International news coverage, neglected global issues, and geographical inequalities in media attention.

Students interested in any of these proposals will be able to express their interest during the designated application period (see Section 6). However, selection is not guaranteed, as supervisors may receive multiple applications and will have the discretion to select one or more students depending on their research interests, availability, and supervisory capacity.

5. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT'S ETHICS ISSUES

Projects that involve human participation or the use of personal data tend to raise ethical issues. The UPF provides support through its Institutional Committee for the Ethical Evaluation of Projects (CIREP, for its acronym in Catalan).

Due to time constraints and volume, the CIREP cannot directly evaluate the design of Master's final projects, but it does provide tools for students to self-evaluate their projects with their supervisors.

These tools can be found in the Final Project section on Moodle. For further explanation on how to apply these rules, please contact your supervisor (and the Methods course instructor, if you are using the Methods course assignment for your final project).

We encourage you to apply these recommendations to deal with ethical and privacy issues correctly to minimise risk.

6. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

During the month of **February**, students must submit their final project proposals (or express their interest in participating in a supervisor-proposed project) using an online form available on the Masters website on Moodle (in the **MA in International Studies in Media, Power and Difference 2026-2027** Moodle area). In this form you will be requested to inform about:

- Your area of interest (journalism, social media, public relations, advocacy, film, etc.)
- Your issue of interest (women, disadvantaged communities, environment, non-human animals, etc.)
- Your goal or idea for a project
- If you would like to participate in a supervisor-proposal
- Your preferred supervisor(s)

Methods Course Assignment: Please note that the Methods course assignment is a proposal for a final project. You are free to use this assignment for your final project or to use it as a training exercise and submit a modified or different final project.

Using Course Assignments for the Final Project: Remember (check the programme guidelines online) that you can use 100% of the content of any course assignment for your final project (but only up to 15% of material in assignments between other courses).

7. ORAL PRESENTATIONS PROCEDURE

Members of the committee

- A chair (the supervisor of the final project to be assessed)
- Two more members (two doctors selected by the coordinator & the department) (plus, optionally, a representative of the corresponding Master's degree partner, in the case of challenge-based projects suggested by external partners)

Procedure

The oral presentations will be conducted according to the following procedure:

1. Welcome by the commission's chair
2. Student'/Group's presentation (individual: 15' / Group: 20'-30')
3. Comments by the two members of the committee (15')
4. Student'/Group's final discussion (Individual: 5' / Group: 5'-10')

The total time for each individual procedure cannot exceed 40 minutes.

The total time for each group procedure cannot exceed 60 minutes.

After the session the committee will deliberate but no public notice will be made at this moment. The grade will be notified privately to each student by the secretary on the week after.

Assessment

For the assessment procedure, please refer to page 5 of this document (section 1.9).

Assessment criteria for the quality of the project (75%):

- Tutor assessment (*participation in tutoring sessions, compliance to the working plan and timing*)
- Quality of the project:
    - *Rationale:* Is there a reasonable, well-structured exposition of ideas?
    - *Form*: Is the project following the standard formatting of an academic presentation?
    - *Hypothesis/objectives/research questions/ formulated*: Are they clear, enough, original?
    - *Theoretical foundations:* Is the work well grounded on literature review or on a particular theoretical approach or approaches? Is there a sound theoretical justification of the project?
    - *Creativity and innovation*: Is the project inventive, imaginative in some aspect?
    - *Methodology and fieldwork (not applicable to theoretical dissertations):* Is the applied methodology well explained? Is there a well research design? Are the methodological choices reasonable?

Assessment criteria for the oral presentation (25%):

- *Audibility*: Can the student be heard clearly throughout?
- *Pace*: Is the pace of the speech, or flow of ideas, too fast or too slow?
- *Fluency*: Is the speech pattern fluent, indicating familiarity with the material?
- *Tone and Energy*: Is there sufficient variation in tone? Does the presenter seem enthusiastic?
- *Eye Contact*: Is the presenter making eye contact across the audience?
- *Body Language and Gesture*: Is the presenter's posture upright and confident?
- *Structure and Cohesion*: Was the structure clearly outlined? Is the order logical and easy to follow? Is the balance of various elements effective? Is timing accurate?
- *Visual Aids*: Is there a suitable amount? Are they easy to read? Do they effectively support the oral delivery? Does the presenter use them competently?

8. ASSESSMENT RUBRICS (The members of the committee will use this form)

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC for individual projects

Type 1 & Type 2: Theoretical Dissertation & Research-based

MA in International Studies in Media, Power and Difference

REVIEWER Name	

DISSERTATION IDENTIFICATION				
Author				
Title				
Supervisor				
Date of defence				
Type of project	Theoretical Dissertation		Research-based Dissertation	

RECOMMENDED GRADE (0 to 10)	
General comments for the student:	
Date:	

Assessment criteria:

Exc: Excellent: Exceeds expectations with outstanding effort and insight.

Good: Good: Meets expectations with solid work and understanding.

Suff: Sufficient: Barely meets the minimum requirements, with basic effort.

NotE: Not Enough: Does not meet the minimum requirements.

For each criterion, please simply tick the box of your choice.

If a criterion doesn't apply, just leave it blank.

1. RATIONALE & ORIGINALITY	Exc	Good	Suff	NotE
Does the introduction clearly summarize the research project?				
Are the ideas presented in a well-structured, logical manner?				
Does the report include all required sections?				
Is coherence maintained from the project's introduction to its conclusions?				
Is the research well-justified within the field of social communication and relevant to the MA in International Studies in Media, Power, and Difference?				
Does the project show creativity or innovation?				
Comments for the student:				

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	Exc	Good	Suff	NotE
Is the work grounded in a suitable theoretical framework?				
Are the arguments clearly explained, justified, and integrated with differing views where relevant? Is any discrepancy addressed or a new proposal suggested?				
Does it include a sufficient number of relevant and reliable references?				
Comments for the student:				

3. LITERATURE REVIEW / STATE OF THE ART	Exc	Good	Suff	NotE
Is the work grounded in a suitable review of the literature /state of the art?				
Are the arguments clearly explained, justified, and integrated with differing views where relevant? Is any discrepancy addressed or a new proposal suggested?				
Does it include a sufficient number of relevant and reliable references?				
Comments for the student:				

4. METHODOLOGY	Exc	Good	Suff	NotE
Is there a clear definition of key concepts for the project?				
Are objectives/hypothesis/research questions well formulated, realistic and justified?				
Is there a detailed account and justification for the methods adopted?				
Is a clear justification of data collection/generation process and instruments included?				
Does it include a reflective account of the research process, including challenges, problems, weak/strong points, limitations and ethical issues (if applicable)?				
Comments for the student:				

5. RESULTS / ANALYSIS	**Exc**	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the methodology been applied correctly, according to the presentation of the results?				
Are the results clearly presented in a way that is consistent with the objectives, research questions and theoretical framework?				
Comments for the student:				

6. DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS	**Exc**	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the discussion about the results properly related to the objectives, research questions or hypotheses?				
Are the findings interpreted in an interesting and consistent way in accordance with the theoretical framework and the literature review				
Comments for the student:				

7. FORMAL ASPECTS	**Exc**	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Are the grammar, spelling, and punctuation of the dissertation correct (facilitating the understanding of the written discourse)?				
Does the project correctly apply the reference rules (**Chicago author-date style**) in tables, figures, citations, and bibliographical references?				
Does the project make correct use of citations in the text?				
Does the table of contents accurately reflect what is included in the project?				
Are the pages of the dissertation numbered?				
Does the dissertation meet the formal characteristics outlined in the final project guidelines (like page limits)?				
Comments for the student:				

8. FOR THE TUTOR	**Exc**	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the student complied with the working plan and timing of the project as agreed with the tutor? Has the student attended and prepared the tutoring sessions?				
Comments for the student:				

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC for group projects
Type 3: Applied and Practice-based

MA in International Studies in Media, Power and Difference

REVIEWER Name	

DISSERTATION IDENTIFICATION	
Author(s) (this is a group project but exceptionally can be individual)	
Title	
Supervisor	
Date of defence	
Type of project	Applied/Practice-based

RECOMMENDED GRADE for the whole group (0 to 10)	
RECOMMENDED GRADE for each member of the group (0 to 10)	*Name student 1: Grade 0 to 10* *Name student 2: Grade 0 to 10* *Name student 3: Grade 0 to 10*
Comments for the students:	
Date:	

Assessment criteria:
Exc: Excellent: Exceeds expectations with outstanding effort and insight.
Good: Good: Meets expectations with solid work and understanding.
Suff: Sufficient: Barely meets the minimum requirements, with basic effort.
NotE: Not Enough: Does not meet the minimum requirements.

For each criterion, please simply tick the box of your choice.
If a criterion doesn't apply, just leave it blank.

IMPORTANT: Indicate for each criterion the name of the student responsible for, so that a differentiated mark can be given for each student. This should be clear from the report, but if it is not, please ask the students to clarify.

1. RATIONALE & ORIGINALITY				
In a group project, this section will be assessed as a whole.				
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Does the introduction clearly summarize the research project?				
Are the ideas presented in a well-structured, logical manner?				
Does the report include all required sections?				
Is coherence maintained from the project's introduction to its conclusions?				
Is the research well-justified within the field of social communication and relevant to the MA in International Studies in Media, Power, and Difference?				
Does the project show creativity or innovation?				
Comments for the student:				

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK				
In a group project, please indicate the name of the student responsible for this part of the work	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the work grounded in a suitable theoretical framework?				
Are the arguments clearly explained, justified, and integrated with differing views where relevant? Is any discrepancy addressed or a new proposal suggested?				
Does it include a sufficient number of relevant and reliable references?				
Comments for the student:				

3. LITERATURE REVIEW / STATE OF THE ART				
In a group project, please indicate the name of the student responsible for this part of the work	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the work grounded in a suitable review of the literature /state of the art?				
Are the arguments clearly explained, justified, and integrated with differing views where relevant? Is any discrepancy addressed or a new proposal suggested?				
Does it include a sufficient number of relevant and reliable references?				
Comments for the student:				

4. METHODOLOGY				
In a group project, please indicate the name of the student responsible for this part of the work	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**

Is there a clear definition of key concepts for the project?				
Are objectives/hypothesis/research questions well formulated, realistic and justified?				
Is there a detailed account and justification for the methods adopted?				
Is a clear justification of data collection/generation process and instruments included?				
Does it include a reflective account of the research process, including challenges, problems, weak/strong points, limitations and ethical issues (if applicable)?				
Comments for the student:				

5. RESULTS / ANALYSIS				
In a group project, this section may have different parts, with different students responsible for each. Grade each part for each student please. Add more tables if necessary.				
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the methodology been applied correctly, according to the presentation of the results?	*Name of the student*			
Are the results clearly presented in a way that is consistent with the objectives, research questions and theoretical framework?	**Exc**	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the methodology been applied correctly, according to the presentation of the results?				
Are the results clearly presented in a way that is consistent with the objectives, research questions and theoretical framework?				
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the methodology been applied correctly, according to the presentation of the results?				
Are the results clearly presented in a way that is consistent with the objectives, research questions and theoretical framework?				
Comments for the students:				

6. PRODUCTION / CREATIVE WORK				
In a group project, this section may have different parts, with different students responsible for each. Grade each part for each student please. Add more tables if necessary.				
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**

Is the meaning and value of the creative work clearly contextualised and justified in the context of the research project?				
Was this work (or the specific part evaluated) well designed and well executed?				
Does this work make an original/valuable contribution to the project objectives?				
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the meaning and value of the creative work clearly contextualised and justified in the context of the research project?				
Was this work (or the specific part evaluated) well designed and well executed?				
Does this work make an original/valuable contribution to the project objectives?				
Part "…"	*Name of the student*			
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the meaning and value of the creative work clearly contextualised and justified in the context of the research project?				
Was this work (or the specific part evaluated) well designed and well executed?				
Does this work make an original/valuable contribution to the project objectives?				
Comments for the student:				

7 DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS				
In a group project, this section will be assessed as a whole.				
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Is the discussion about the results properly related to the objectives, research questions or hypotheses?				
Are the findings interpreted in an interesting and consistent way in accordance with the theoretical framework and the literature review				
Comments for the student:				

8. FORMAL ASPECTS				
In a group project, this section will be assessed as a whole.				
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Are the grammar, spelling, and punctuation of the dissertation correct (facilitating the understanding of the written discourse)?				
Does the project correctly apply the reference rules (Chicago author-date style) in tables, figures, citations, and bibliographical references?				
Does the project make correct use of citations in the text?				

Does the table of contents accurately reflect what is included in the project?				
Are the pages of the dissertation numbered?				
Does the dissertation meet the formal characteristics outlined in the final project guidelines (like page limits)?				
Comments for the student:				

9. FOR THE TUTOR				
In a group project, this section will be assessed as a whole.				
	Exc	**Good**	**Suff**	**NotE**
Has the group complied with the working plan and timing of the project as agreed with the tutor? Has the student attended and prepared the tutoring sessions?				
Comments for the student:				