Recommendations for the Thesis of the Study Program MSc Environmental Management of Mountain Areas (EMMA)

I Written MSc Thesis

- **Language:** the thesis has to be written in Standard English.
- **General recommendation**

  The Thesis for the Master's degree represents the quality of education of a University. The Thesis has to be a coherent scholarly work, it must be clearly and consistently prepared and must meet all of the specifications outlined below. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the orthographic and grammar requirements are met. Advice: use spellcheck of the language used.

  IMPORTANT: Ensure that the Thesis is absolutely correct with regard to typo- and orthographical or grammatical mistakes before you hand it to your supervisor. Otherwise, it will be returned as "not conforming to the requirements".

- **Content and organization of thesis:**

a. Front page (proposal jointly worked out by both universities);

b. Preface (optional);

c. Index;

d. List of Figures (optional);

e. List of Tables (optional);

f. List of abbreviations: Give a summary of abbreviations used in the Thesis in alphabetical order. A general rule is using the full name for the first mention in the text together with the parenthetical abbreviation and use of the abbreviation in the following text;

g. Abstract (max. 1/2 pages) in English and in Italian or German;

h. Summary (max. 1 page in German if the Thesis will be presented at the University of Innsbruck)

i. Introduction: state-of-the-art of the current knowledge and identification of the knowledge gap to work on;

j. Aim of the Thesis: indicate objectives and research questions/hypotheses;

k. Material & Methods: describe (1) the study site and (2) how you approached the problem, which materials/methodologies were used and the statistical methods applied;

l. Results: describe your findings; tables and graphs are useful;

m. Discussion: discuss your findings also in relation to those from literature (cp. Introduction);

n. Conclusions & Recommendations: conclude your work, e.g. by formulating recommendations, reflecting critically your approach, suggest further research (conclusions are no doubling of the discussion and no summary!) and make reference to the practice;

o. References (format, see below);

p. Appendices or annexes (if present);

q. Final Appendix: Declaration of Commitment and Consent form

Tables, figures and pictures follow within the text after referring to them.

Cited references must be inserted in the text (as well as in Tables and Figures) and listed in the reference section (see below). Each figure must have a legend below. Legends or captions of tables are placed above. For consistency in a published Thesis, it is essential to keep fonts used in graphs at a minimum of 2 mm.

- **Suggested thesis Format/Layout:**

Font	Tahoma 12pt
Spacing	Single
Alignment	Justify

Front page: The front page must be signed by the student and the 2 supervisors (1 from UNIBZ and 1 from UIBK) if the Thesis will be presented at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)

Exception for high quality research work:
The MSc Thesis can also be prepared as a manuscript for a journal if it is worth publishing it. Then, the format has to follow the journal. Additional material should be presented in an Appendix.

- **Recommendations for citations and for the reference list:**

Citation within the text:

1. Single Author - **(Doniger 1999)**
2. Two Authors - **(Cowlishaw & Dunbar 2000)**
3. Three or more Authors **(Doniger et al. 1999)**

Where different references would appear identical when cited in this manner, use letters after the date in the citations and reference list (Secco et al. 2012a, b). Where two authors have the same last name, add their initials (F.J. Zhao et al. 2010). **Order lists of references in date order** (oldest first), and **alphabetically** when of the same date: (Rokas et al. 2003; Kocot et al. 2011; Smith et al. 2011; Struck et al. 2011).

In press and unpublished citations

Cite references 'in press' only if accepted by a named journal. All other references (including submitted papers and abstracts, personal communications and personal observations) must be cited in the text as unpublished (C. J. Frost & H. Liang, unpublished; R. J. Norby, pers. comm.; A. H. Fitter, pers. obs.) and should not be included in the reference list.

In the **Reference** list**,** references are reported as follow:

Reference list

At end of the text list references alphabetically (up to a maximum of 10 authors per citation) using these standard forms:

(Regular research articles)

Amselem J, Cuomo CA, van Kan JAL, Viaud M, Benito EP, Couloux A, Coutinho PM, de Vries RP, Dyer PS, Fillinger S et al. 2011. Genomic analysis of the necrotrophic fungal pathogens *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and *Botrytis cinerea*. *PLoS Genetics* **7**: e1002230.

(Research Report)

IPCC. 2007. Solomon S, Qin D, Manning M, Chen Z, Marquis M, Averyt KB, Tignor M, Miller HL, eds. *Climate change 2007: the physical science basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge, UK & New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press.

Smith S, Rausher MD. 2011. Gene loss and parallel evolution contribute to species difference in flower color. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* **28**: 2799–2810.

Strader LC, Chen GL, Bartel B. 2010. Ethylene directs auxin to control root cell expansion. *Plant Journal* **64**: 874–884.

(Book)

Smith SE, Read DJ. 2008. *Mycorrhizal symbiosis*. Cambridge, UK: Academic Press.

(Book chapter)

Eckert CG, Samis KE, Dart S. 2006. Reproductive assurance and the evolution of uniparental reproduction in flowering plants. In: Harder LD, Barrett SCH, eds. *The ecology and evolution of flowering*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 183–203.

(Thesis)

Darbah JNT. 2007. *Impacts of elevated atmospheric CO_2 and/or O_3 on carbon gain and reproductive capacity in northern forest ecosystems*. PhD thesis, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, USA.

(Web document)

Webb C, Ackerly D, Kembel S. 2009. *Phylocom. Software for the analysis of phylogenetic community structure and character evolution*. [WWW document] URL http://phylodiversity.net/phylocom/. [accessed 1 September 2011].

('In press' article)

Schowalter TD. 2012. Insect herbivore effects on forest ecosystem services. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, in press.

References that are available online pending their appearance in a scheduled print (or online) issue (for *New Phytologist* papers this means availability in *Early View*) to be listed as:

Schulze S, Kay S, Büttner D, Egler M, Eschen-Lippold L, Hause, G. Krüger A, Lee J, Müller O, Scheel D et al. 2012. Analysis of new type III effectors from *Xanthomonas* uncovers XopB and XopS as suppressors of plant immunity. *New Phytologist*. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-8137.2012.04210.x

For other cases, please see: Turabian Citation Guide, http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

Recommendations for Units of Measurement and Symbols: In general, SI Units **(S**ystème **I**nternational**)** have to be used. Exceptions could be litre, mol l^{-1}, M (see volume, concentrations).

Two units should have a blank in between (10 g m^{-2}). Units resulting from a division should be indicated by superscripted numerals (m s^{-1}, not m/s).

Numbers should be given as short as possible: 1.35 x 10^5 cells stands for 135,000 cells. Decimal places dropping below the detection capacity of an instrument should be rounded, e.g. 1.4 mg, particularly in case of descriptions of axis in graphics. Volume data should be based on litres (l, ml, µl) or cubic meters (m^3, mm^3, cm^3, dm^3). Concentrations should be indicated in mol l^{-1} (tolerable spelling: µM, mM, M).

II MSc Thesis defense

MSc Thesis will be discussed in English. Each candidate is asked to present his/her work in approximately 20 minutes; the presentation is then open for discussion.