

RMCE: Instructions for reports

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Objectives :

The main objective of the course is to teach the necessary background to conduct research in the field of civil engineering and prepare for the research work to be performed during the master thesis. The main deliverable of the course is a 10-12 pages report which serves as a preparation for the master thesis. The student will choose a research topic in a list provided by the master thesis promoters and write a report containing

- A short abstract (½ page)
- An introduction giving the background, context and motivation and general objective of the work (1-2 pages)
- A critical and structured state-of-the-art containing the most important references, a description of the relevant information from these publications and their link with the topic of the research, as well as their adequacy or limitations with respect to the problem treated. The state-of-the art should clearly identify the gaps in the existing methods/applications which motivate the research and define the goals. (2-3 pages)
- A clear and structured work plan. The work plan should be clearly linked to the gaps identified in the state-of-the-art and be aimed at filling these gaps, by proposing specific methods. In doing so, the work should be structured in tasks, which are themselves gathered in work packages. A Pert chart showing the links between work packages and tasks (which output result is used as an input to which task?) should be included (2-3 pages)
- A tentative schedule. At this stage it is important to imagine how the tasks defined in the work plan should be arranged in time in order to finalize the research work by the end of the academic year. As always in research, this is only tentative and will be used as an adaptable roadmap during the thesis. (1 page)
- A reference list. Note that all references present in the list should be referenced directly in the text (no 'free reference'). The choice of the referencing style is left free, but note that referencing with footnotes is not a common practice in civil engineering, so they should be avoided. (1-2 pages)

The total length of the report should be between 10 and 12 pages, and follow a template (provided in word and latex)