MoL Graduation Trajectory

Introduction 24/25

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MoL graduation trajectory

- Designed for
  - α 2nd year MoL students who plan to graduate in the summer 2025
  - β But also: students starting now their thesis writing semester, who plan to graduate in the winter 2024/25
  - γ Students who plan graduate in the winter 25/26 can follow the trajectory now but will have to present their thesis in fall 2025
- Plan of today
  - Information about MoL graduation (on behalf of MoL ExB)
  - Life after MoL: Dean McHugh on PhD applications
- Overview of other meetings
  - October - December
    - ILLC units presentations   [Oct, Nov]
    - **MoL thesis presentations** (by β students)   [30 Oct & 6 Nov]
    - How to write a research proposal (Arianna Betti)   [13 Nov]
    - individual meetings with mentors & potential supervisors   [Nov-Dec]
  - January - February
    - January topic presentations (by α students)
  - February - March
    - How to write a MoL thesis (by ex-MoL PhD students) [19 Feb, TBC]
    - Scientific integrity (Martin Stokhof)   [26 Feb]
  - April
    - **MoL thesis presentations** (by α students)

ILLC research unit presentations

- Wed, 2 Oct: MCL & NLP&DH
- Wed, 9 Oct: FSPL & TCS
- Wed, Nov 27: EPS & LMC

MoL thesis presentations vs January presentations

MoL thesis presentations

- ▶ Mandatory, public events (whole ILLC community is invited);
- ▶ Held in October-November and April:
  - ▶ Wednesday 30 Oct & 6 Nov, 5-7pm (β students)
  - ▶ various dates in April (α students)
- ▶ β students who want to present in October-November should register on Canvas no later than September 30

January presentations

- ▶ Informal presentations of preliminary thesis topics, only open to GradTraj students
- ▶ Held in January-February (not mandatory but highly recommended)

MoL thesis presentations vs thesis discussion meetings vs thesis defence

- ▶ From OER, Article B-4.4.3:

  Before their thesis defence, students are required to (i) present their ongoing thesis project during a plenary MoL thesis presentation event or (ii) discuss their project once with an ILLC staff member outside of their supervisory team. Students are advised to do both.

- ▶ From MoL webpage more info on thesis discussion meetings:

  Students who cannot present their thesis during one of the plenary events need to prepare a one page abstract of their thesis project, send it to an ILLC staff member (outside of supervision team) with an invitation to meet, meet and after the meeting send an email to mol-illc@uva.nl to inform the EC that the meeting took place (with abstract in attachment and ILLC member in cc).

- ▶ MoL thesis presentation $\neq$ public thesis defense (both mandatory)

Graduation: step by step guide

All details at:
`https://msclogic.illc.uva.nl/current-students/graduation/step-by-step-guide/`

But be aware that this page is regularly updated

1. Find supervisor & topic   [10-6 months before defense]

   ▶ Summer defense (α students): due December-January
   ▶ Winter defense (β students): due August-September

2. Submit 2 approval forms in DataNose: [4-3 months before defense]
   thesis project $+$ academic plan

   ▶ Summer defense (α students): deadline **1 March**
   ▶ Winter defense (β students): June-October

   (required: at least 72 EC & supervisor $+$ topic. Choice of courses is final.)

3. Thesis writing $+$ MoL thesis presentation   [5-1 months before defense]

Graduation: step by step guide

4. Request of chair assignment (by sup)   [5-6 weeks before defense]
5. Arrange your thesis defense (DataNose)   [1 month before defense]
6. Thesis submission (DataNose)   [3 weeks before defense]
7. Public thesis defense (required: all credits registered!)
8. Online application for diploma, de-registration, MoL evaluation
   [after the defense]
9. Final version thesis for online publication on ILLC webpage
   [up to 1 month after defense]

Also check **thesis assessment guidelines**:
https://msclogic.illc.uva.nl/current-students/graduation/assessment/

Additional note on summer graduations

▶ Fixed graduation slots in the summer between 15 June and 15 July and in the last weeks of August (no slots between mid July and mid August)

▶ Note that if you defend after 31 August, you will have to re-enroll for the next academic year

▶ Available defense slots appear on MoL website in April-May, only sup can reserve a slot

How to find a thesis topic: 'step by step guide'

1. Attend research seminars at the GradTraj (but also other ILLC seminars/colloquia)
2. Choose an area of research, e.g.
   - Modal Logic, Philosophical Logic, Proof theory, Model theory, Complexity theory, Computational Social Choice, Formal Semantics, Dynamic Epistemic Logic, Music Cognition, Quantum Computing, Set Theory, Computational Linguistics, Philosophy of Mathematics, Cryptography, Cognitive Modelling, Formal Epistemology, . . .
3. Approach potential supervisor(s) in that area and discuss potential topics   [Oct-Dec]
4. Choose supervisor   [Dec-Jan]
5. Choose the final topic together with supervisor and present it at GradTraj   [Jan-Feb]

Some additional remarks

- ▶ Different supervision styles
  - ▶ some supervisors expect you to be proactive in proposing topics
  - ▶ others will only supervise you on topics closely related to their own research
- ▶ Possible topics
  - ▶ you may graduate on any topic related to an ILLC research area
  - ▶ but you need an ILLC supervisor competent in that area
  - ▶ For concrete ideas have a look at recent MoL theses at https://www.illc.uva.nl/MScLogic/theses/
- ▶ Hard rule: Every M.Sc. Logic thesis must be primarily supervised by an ILLC staff member who takes full responsibility for the project and needs approval of the Examinations Board. This applies equally to projects in collaboration with non-academic partners (as the ones proposed during the Thesis Fair)
- ▶ Other rules: usually no more than two supervisors, at least one must be an ILLC staff member (including postdocs)

Initiatives and opportunities: Thesis Fair

- a GSI platform where organisations (academic and non-academic) can propose thesis projects to students;
  - Info Session: Wed, 18 Sep from 9:00 – 11:00 in room C1.110
  - Project Voting: 18 Sep, 17:00 – 25 Sep, 17:00
    [voting for project is mandatory to attend the fair event]
  - Thesis Fair event on 15 October, 13.30-18.00, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)
- The Thesis Fair is an opportunity for students to meet with organisations and discuss their offered projects;
- More info: https://informatics.amsterdam

Life after MoL: outside of academia

Thesis fair

▶ Opportunities to learn more about research themes and career possibilities in the non academic (public and private) sector in the Netherlands.

▶ Recall: Every MSc Logic thesis must be primarily supervised by an ILLC staff member who takes full responsibility for the project and needs approval of the Examinations Board.

Non academic mentors

▶ MoL/ILLC alumni can be contacted (via MoL office) for advice on career outside of academia

▶ More info and list of mentors on MoL webpage:
https://msclogic.illc.uva.nl/careers/Non-Academic-Mentors/

Other life after ILLC events

▶ Non-Academic Career Paths: Insights from Alumni, career event for MoL and PhD, normally taking place in April-May

Life after MoL: academia

Information and experiences on PhD application procedure

- ▶ Dean McHugh + guests

PhD positions at ILLC

1. Embedded in an existing research project (ERC, NWO-funded) with ILLC staff member as PI;
2. Linked to starting grants of new lecturers;
3. PhD in the Humanities position (NWO-funded): three selection rounds (ILLC/UvA-Humanities/NWO), you need to write your own long proposal (in collaboration with supervisor);
4. If you have another source of funding (a grant) you can apply directly to the ILLC PhD programme.