Name of student : ____________________________________________
Student number : ____________________________________________
Master’s programme : ____________________________________________
Title of thesis : ____________________________________________
Date : ____________________________________________
Name first reader/supervisor : ____________________________________________
Names second reader and third reader (if applicable) : ____________________________________________

GRADE

ASSESSMENT*

*see below for the description of the grades; the thesis need minimal re assessment; no compensation allowed.

Detailed assessment covering the following points

Content: subject; knowledge of the field; coherence of the argument

Originality/evidence of independent thought and critical reflection

Methodological strengths and weaknesses
Quality of research (range of secondary and primary material covered; quality of empirical research, if applicable)

Presentation: quality of the writing (correctness, clarity, style, composition, professionalism in presentation)

The process leading to the thesis (degree of independence, amount of supervision required, time management)

Additional remarks:

Signature first reader

Signature third reader

Signature second reader

On behalf of the Board of Examiners

The signed form is to be sent by e-mail (PDF) or by 'internal post' to: Studiepunt.gw@uu.nl, t.a.v. Erika Lantsheer. Address: Drift 10; copies should also be sent to the programme coordinator.
RMA Thesis – Standards for Assessment

General

- a grade will usually be assigned for a combination of reasons and the final grade is therefore based on the overall impression rather than on isolated features.
- the main categories are represented below; a thesis which is judged to fall between two categories may be given a half-grade, as in 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5.

Assessment Research MA Thesis: "Anchors"

- In order to be awarded a 6 or more, a thesis has to meet the generally accepted academic standards in the relevant field.
- No thesis can be accepted without a clearly described central research question, or family of questions.
- Theoretical theses must meet accepted standards in the selection of material, hypothesis formation and evaluation of alternative hypotheses in view of the materials obtained.
- Experimental theses must meet accepted standards in the selection of materials, methods, the statistics used and the discussion. When an experimental thesis is limited to a case study, this choice must be motivated.

Grades

The grades 6-10 are awarded on the basis of the degree in which the thesis meets the quality indicators given above.
Detailed grade description

**Deficient (5):**
The thesis does not have a central research question. It shows poor knowledge of the scholarly context and little evidence of independent thought. The research is superficial, unsystematic, and shows little effort. The argument lacks structure and the writing is vague or incorrect (the expression is poor at best, incoherent at worst.) It makes inadequate use of primary and secondary sources, and/or does not use or produce relevant data. The presentation does not meet professional standards.

**Pass (6)**

| A 6 is awarded to a thesis that meets (but does not reach beyond) the accepted standards in the field in terms of soundness of methods and argumentation. |

The thesis has a central question and provides an answer. The presentation of sources meets professional standards and the argument shows knowledge of the academic context. The thesis shows evidence of independent research in the relevant field, using appropriate methods. At the same time, its grasp of the issues involved does not reach beyond the basic requirements of the field. The writing does not exceed the basic requirements of correctness and clarity.

**Good (7)**

| A 7 is awarded to a thesis that meets these standards and also makes available interesting and original results that merit attention (for instance in the form of being cited in scientific publications). |

The thesis formulates and attempts to answer a central research question in a satisfactory way. It demonstrates a good basic understanding of the topic and of its complexities. It shows a good knowledge of the relevant academic context. It demonstrates solid coverage of the relevant data and of secondary and primary sources, using appropriate methods. The presentation and discussion of the data and sources is generally professional. The language is correct and the main points are made explicitly and in a structured way. However, the analysis may be derivative and lacking in discrimination. It exhibits some problems of relevance and structure. The evidence presented does not fully support conclusions, and it lacks detail and nuance. Expression may exhibit some deficiencies. It shows little evidence of independent thought or of critical reflection on methods and theories.
Very good (8):

An 8 can be awarded to a thesis that makes a contribution to the field that in principle merits publication, though not necessarily in the form of an independent publication (this presupposes sufficient originality, and soundness of the research carried out).

The thesis formulates a research question clearly and provides a convincing answer to it. It demonstrates a sound understanding of the topic and the issues involved in it. It shows a broad understanding of the academic context. It demonstrates extensive independent research, using appropriate methods. It is coherently structured and argued. The conclusions are supported by detailed evidence. It is well expressed. The analyses are more solid than original. There is limited evidence of critical reflection on methods and theories.

Excellent (9):

A 9 can be awarded to a thesis that makes a contribution to the field that is so original and convincing that it merits being brought to the attention of the international forum as part of a contribution in an A-level journal, and/or immediately qualifies the student for being admitted to further study at the PhD level.

The central question is very clearly formulated. It is very clearly situated in the relevant scholarly discussions and the writer shows an above average level of familiarity with the relevant scholarly context. It addresses all aspects of the topic and demonstrates careful and systematic research on appropriately selected sources or independently gathered data. It demonstrates critical reflection on methods and theories. It shows evidence of independent thought, knowledge of the field, and high-level insight and powers of analysis. The argument is balanced, well structured and effectively expressed, with specific, detailed and accurate use of evidence. It is scrupulous in its citation of primary and secondary sources and its adherence to bibliographic conventions.

Outstanding (10):

A 10 can be awarded a thesis that makes a highly original and important contribution to the field and qualifies for acceptance in an international A-level journal.

The question is innovative and sharply formulated. It is shown to have considerable relevance to the scholarly discussions in the field. The thesis demonstrates a full command of the topic and the debates in the field. It shows evidence of original and independent thought but also of systematic, broad-ranging and thorough research in the field using appropriate methods. It shows exceptional insight and powers of analysis which fully reflect the complexity of the topic. It demonstrates an
engagement with and critical approach to the scholarly debate. The argumentation is thorough, the examples are always precise and relevant, and the selection and synthesis of secondary literature are polished. The handling of bibliography and footnoting is up to professional standard and the style is precise, correct, and highly readable.