

## Thesis Writing Advice from the Editorial Committee at the Department of Soil and Environment

There are no precise rules on how a thesis should be written. Take advantage of the greater freedom you have compared to the writing of a manuscript intended for publication in a scientific journal. Be creative and present yourself! In the thesis summary (Swedish: *kappa*) you present the background, objectives, hypotheses and discuss the implications of your results. Bring the different parts together in an overall synthesis highlighting what your contribution is in the bigger picture (helicopter perspective)!

### Technical issues and common mistakes

- The thesis script should be linguistically checked before submitted to the editorial board.
- *The text should be your own and not consist of extensive copying from the manuscripts included in the thesis. To include text from other researchers work without proper references is plagiarism.*
- Check that you have the permit to reproduce figures/illustrations with copyright holders.
- Avoid repeating full methodological descriptions and every aspect of the results from the papers.
- If you use your own illustrations, indicate in the caption that it is your own work.
- Figures and tables should be self-comprehensive, placed at the top or bottom of a page, after being mentioned in the text.
- Tables: Check how to insert decimal tabs in your word processor and use them! Decimal point over decimal point; first decimal over first decimal.
- Do not use the word 'we' for instance in a sentence like 'we discovered that *a* was better than *b*', write instead 'I', because you are the sole author of the thesis.
- Reported differences, effects etc. must be significant. You do not have to write 'the treatments differed significantly'. Simply write 'the treatments differed'. If they did not differ significantly, they did not differ at all, provided you use and rely on the tools of statistics.
- Check the meaning of 'parameters' and 'variables' and use the words correctly.
- Be aware about the difference between colon (:) and semicolon (;).
- The reference list should be consistent and according to the style in the template.