
Master studies on libre software A design proposal

*Jesús M. González Barahona
GSyC, URJC*



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Academic program: main structure

- 90 ECTS credits (1.5 academic years)
- 30 “core” credits (compulsory)
- 30 “specialization” credits (optionals)
- 30 practicum credits
- Some credits could be needed before starting the master (depending on background)

Academic program: core credits

- Introduction (4): general background
- Economy and business models (4): economic models, business cases
- Legal matters (4): licensing, legislative initiatives, legal implications
- Sociology and ethics (4): motivation, communities, ethics of the libre software movement
- Development environments and tools (4): what is used in libre software development
- Project management (4): how are libre software projects managed
- Case studies (6): broad and comprehensive study of libre software projects, companies, organizations, etc.

Academic program: optional credits

Open, according to the offer of implementing institutions and to the expected profile. Some possible subjects (all of them devoted to libre software in those areas), 3-4 credits each:

- Languages common in libre software projects
- Advanced project development; Version control and configuration management
- Installation and administration of usual libre software platforms
- Libre software web based systems
- Security; Office tools; Multimedia; Mathematic tools
- Database systems; Embedded systems

Academic program: practicum

- Goal: to let students have real first hand experience of the libre software world
- If possible, participation in real projects
- About 10 credits: general experiences related to libre software (multi-disciplinary)
- About 20 credits: master's thesis

Implementation: “intensive” scenario

- Three semesters
- At the beginning/end of each, an in-place period
- The rest of the semester, distance learning with local tutors.
- Students and teachers move to an in-place location every six months
- Possibility of stances of about 4 months during the “rest” of the semester (specially for master's thesis)

In-place period

- Students and teachers together at the same location for about two months, twice a year
- About 6 hours of class each day
- Two subjects in parallel (usually morning and evening)
- About 30 hours of in-place lectures and practice per subject
- First period (beginning of term): about 18-24 hours
- Second period (end of term): about 6-12 hours
- Exams at the beginning of the following term, back at home Unis

Other issues

- First part of practicum in 2nd semester, master's thesis in 3rd semester
- Optional subjects do not overlap (and are offered during 2nd or 3rd semester)
- Students can approach prospective tutors for master's thesis during in-place periods

In short...

- This is just a proposal
- Achieving a consensus on the basic academic structure would be interesting
- All of this is open to collaboration
- Other implementation scenarios are possible
- Come and join us:
<http://www.nongnu.org/masterlibre/>