UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND FOREST SCIENCES

DEGREE PROGRAMME IN MEDITERRANEAN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (LM-70R)

Regulations for the Master's Degree Examination of the Master's Degree Programme in Mediterranean Food Science and Technology (LM-70R)

Regulations for the Master's Degree Examination of the Master's Degree Programme in Mediterranean Food Science and Technology (LM-70R)

- Pursuant to the resolution of the Food Science and Technology (FST) Interclass Council dated 04.06.2026

Article 1
Procedures for conducting the Master's Degree examination

Pursuant to Article 35 of the University Teaching Regulations, in order to obtain the degree the student must take a final examination.

The final examination of the Master's Degree Programme in Mediterranean Food Science and Technology consists of the presentation of an original thesis, aimed at assessing the level achieved in technical-scientific and professional preparation, and of a discussion on any questions posed by the members of the Examination Board, convened in a public session.

Pursuant to Article 28 of the University Teaching Regulations, when approving the annual Academic Calendar before the beginning of the Academic Year, the Academic Senate establishes at least three Master's Degree graduation sessions, with one sitting for each of them:
1) Summer (June/July);
2) Autumn (September/October);
3) Extraordinary (February/March).

The Coordinator, in agreement with the Master's Degree Programme Council, establishes and announces the exact dates and venue for the examinations by publication on the CCS webpage and/or through other official social media communication channels of the Degree Programme. As provided for in the academic calendar, the list of requirements and the related deadlines shall also be published, namely:
- uploading of the long abstract to the student portal
- validation of the long abstract by the thesis supervisors
- ratification of the base graduation mark
- submission of the final thesis by e-mail.

In order to be admitted to the final examination, the student must have acquired, at least 20 days before the start of the scheduled session or, where different, according to the deadlines established by the Academic Senate, all the credits required by the academic regulations of the Degree Programme, with the exception of the CFU credits assigned to the final examination, which are acquired upon passing the examination itself.

Article 2
Admission procedures for the Master's Degree examination

A student who intends to prepare the Master's Degree thesis must submit a request to a faculty member (Professor or Researcher) belonging to the Food Science and Technology Interclass Council, who shall act as supervisor, at least six months before the expected Master's Degree graduation session. The request must be approved by the Degree Programme Council at the first available meeting.

At the first available meeting of the Degree Programme Council in each academic year, and in any case within thirty days of the start of that Academic Year, all faculty members belonging to the Master's Degree Programme must inform the Coordinator of the topics for final theses for which they are available to act as supervisors, in accordance with the principle of an equitable distribution of this task. The list is published on the CCS website.

During the academic year, the list may in any case be updated, including on the basis of proposals submitted by students.

Article 3
Characteristics of the final thesis

The final thesis (degree thesis), which must be original in nature, may be experimental, theoretical and project-based, or may consist of an essay on a single- or multidisciplinary topic. The final thesis may also be supplemented by a multimedia product. Both must be drafted in English. The thesis must be written in “Times New Roman”, 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing, top, bottom and right margins of 2 cm, and a left margin of 3.5 cm.

The final thesis, or part of it, may also be carried out at other Italian or foreign institutions and public and/or private companies, subject to approval by the CCS.

The thesis supervisor, in addition to being a tenured professor or researcher belonging to the Food Science and Technology Interclass Council, may also be an adjunct professor of the same Interclass Council or the instructor of a course selected by the student within the “student’s choice” section.

The supervisor may be assisted by another professor, researcher, adjunct professor, external expert or PhD candidate, who shall act as co-supervisor in the activities related to the preparation of the final thesis.

If, after the thesis has been assigned, the supervisor leaves service for any reason or becomes unavailable for justified reasons, the CCS Coordinator shall arrange for their replacement in agreement with the student.

The supervisor is required to participate in the thesis discussion during the graduation session. In the event of an impediment, the supervisor must promptly notify the CCS Coordinator, who shall appoint a substitute.

Article 4
Master's Degree Examination Board

The Examination Boards for the final examination, authorized to award the Master's Degree in Mediterranean Food Science and Technology, are appointed by the Coordinator of the Degree Programme Council and are composed of seven to nine full members from among Professors and Researchers, in addition to any members designated by other institutions, where applicable.

The order appointing the Board must include, in addition to the full members, the identification of at least two substitute members. Full members who are unavailable to attend the graduation session must promptly inform the CCS Coordinator of the reasons for their absence, normally at least 48 hours before the start of the session, so that substitute members may be convened.

The functions of Chair of the Board are normally performed by the CCS Coordinator or by their delegate.

Co-supervisors may also sit on the Board, as additional members and only for the discussion of the theses to which they have contributed.

Article 5
Determination of the degree grade

The initial, or base, grade (for admission to the final examination), derived from the student's academic record, is obtained by calculating the weighted average of the marks out of thirty achieved in the examinations, using as weights the CFU assigned to the courses. In calculating this weighted average, the lowest mark obtained by the student in an examination worth a maximum of 6 CFU must be excluded. In the case of courses worth more than 6 CFU, the calculation is carried out by assigning to the excluded course mark a weight corresponding to the number of CFU exceeding six.

For the calculation of the initial mark, marks out of thirty obtained in any subjects included in excess of those required by the student’s study plan, in the form of “free courses”, shall also be considered.

For the calculation of the initial mark, the weighted average of the marks out of thirty is then converted to a 110-point scale.

In calculating the initial mark, a maximum of 3 points may be added on the basis of the number of honours obtained by the student, at the rate of 0.5 points for each honour.

The initial mark resulting from the calculations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g. 102.5 becomes 103 and 102.49 becomes 102).

The Board, regardless of the number of members (from a minimum of 7 to a maximum of 9), has an equally distributed overall score of 11 points.

The Board has one additional point to award to graduating students who have gained experience abroad within the framework of EU programmes (Erasmus,

Socrates, etc.) or as visiting students, provided that the student has earned at least 15 CFU under those programmes, or has carried out abroad a significant part of the study activities aimed at writing the Master's Degree thesis, or has obtained certificates and/or attendance diplomas from foreign institutions recognized by the SAAF Department or within the activities provided for by the practical/application internship regulations.

The Board has two additional points to award to graduating students who have completed their studies within the standard duration of the Master's Degree Programme.

The score is assigned by each member of the Board by open vote.

In the event of maximum grades, the Board may award honours. The proposal may be made by one of the members of the Board and must be approved unanimously. Honours may be awarded to students whose initial grade is not lower than 102/110.

For theses on topics of particular scientific and/or applied relevance, in relation to the results achieved, the supervisor may request a special mention. The special mention may be requested only for graduating students whose initial academic record grade is not lower than 105/110 and only in the case of a Master's Degree awarded with maximum grades and honours.

The request for a special mention must be submitted by the supervisor to the Coordinator of the Degree Programme Council at least 20 days before the scheduled date of the graduation session.

The Coordinator shall appoint a Board composed of three faculty members who are experts in the subject area to jointly formulate any reasoned proposal for a special mention. The proposal for a special mention shall be sent, in a sealed envelope, to the Chair of the Graduation Board, who shall read it only after the overall degree score has been assigned.

The Chair of the Board shall publicly read out the special mention at the time the candidate is proclaimed.

Article 6
Transitional provisions

These Regulations shall enter into force within the time limits established by the University Teaching Regulations (RDA) and by the competent University bodies.