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**Technology**
**Arts Sciences**
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Information Sheet

# Working with the LaTeX Template for Scientific Theses

The most common way to work with LaTeX is to use a distribution (e.g., MikTeX or TeX Live). Furthermore, an editor specially "tailored" to LaTeX is recommended (e.g., Texmaker or TexStudio). Although such an editor is not necessary, it makes working with LaTeX much more pleasant (compilation at the push of a button, syntax button, syntax highlighting, automatic code completion ...).

## Using the LaTeX Template

- The template is designed for compilation with `pdflatex` or `lualatex` (this can be set in the editor).

- The template is divided into several individual `tex` files. The main file (which must also be compiled) is called `thk_latex-template_academic-theses.tex`. This file serves as the "basic skeleton" and integrates the other files, resulting in an overall document. A compilation of the other files leads to an error.

- Some settings are made in the `definitions.tex` and `packages.tex` files and the necessary packages are installed. Only change these files if you know what you are doing!

- The `content` folder contains the files that contain the actual content of the finished document. A separate file is provided for each chapter (the names should be self-explanatory). You will mainly edit these files.

- The `references.bib` file contains the information on your cited sources in `bibTeX` format.

- External graphics that you would like to include in your thesis should be placed in the images folder (supported formats: `jpg`, `png`, `pdf`).

## Notes on Compilation

In the simplest case, the compilation is initiated by pressing a button in the editor. What exactly happens then can be set in the editor. As every editor is structured differently, the following shows how the compilation can be started directly via the command line, independently of the editor (to do this you must first navigate to the corresponding folder):

```
lualatex thk_latex-template_academic-theses.tex
```

For the literature, the template uses another external tool for compilation:

```
biber thk_latex-template_academic-theses
```

Please note that **no** file extension is specified when `biber` is used.

**Please note: The template does not replace the specific requirements of the respective exam examination boards. If there are special formal requirements in your subject, these apply.**

To prepare for your thesis, we recommend that you use the services offered by the <u>**Writing Center of the Center for Soft Skills Development**</u>. The Writing Center is your point of contact at TH Köln for questions about academic writing.

**Recommended reading:**

Schlosser, Joachim (2011): *Wissenschaftliche Arbeiten schreiben mit LaTeX: Leitfaden für Einsteiger.* Frechen: mitp.