

Master thesis: a directional overview

Typical process based on applying end of year

Milestones	Expectations	Dates
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Targeted thesis submission date▪ Prerequisite courses▪ One-page topic outline	December
Topic definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Precise research question (often takes several weeks)▪ Road to the answer (prelim. Table of Contents)	By March
Official registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mutual understanding of scope<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Table of contents▪ Exposé + prelim. literature▪ Submission of thesis any day within 20 weeks of registration	1. March (recommended)
Thesis colloquium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 15 min presentation▪ 15 min Q&A	TBD (1-2 dates per semester; candidate presents once)
Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 50 pages (+/-5)▪ Appendix (as applicable)▪ References	July

Products

I. Colloquium presentation

Recommend about 10 slides for presentation;
directional structure

- Context (1 slide)
- Literature and gap (3 slides)
- Methods (3 slides)
- Prelim. output, if any (2 slides)
- Questions for audience (1+ slides)

15 min Q&A – passive supervisor

II. Master thesis

50 pages (+/- 5) in 12 pt font, 1.5 spacing;
directional structure*

- Introduction
- Theory
 - Unanswered scientific question(s)
 - Possibly hypotheses
 - Not a literature review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
 - Theoretical implications
 - Practical implications
 - Limitations
- Conclusion

- Appendix
(e.g., literature overview, non-core data)
- References

*Roughly: 1/3 Theory, 1/3 Methods and Results, 1/3 Intro and Discussion and Conclusion

Don't top 8 (subjective)

Don't

1. Follow imprecise research question
2. Pursue a question purely from a practitioner standpoint
3. Review literature for too long
4. Use methods that can't answer the question
5. Commit late to paper
6. Miss actively soliciting feedback
7. Misallocate time (e.g., references)
8. Be too complex

Does not guarantee good outcome 😊

Resources to get started



MAN 721 Research Seminar Organization and Innovation

6 ECTS

Kursdetails

Guideline for the Preparation of Scientific Papers and Theses

(Status: June 2016)

Chair of Organization
and Innovation

Prof. Dr. Karin Hoisl, MBR

