



Contents guide for M.Sc./B.Sc. theses

The purpose of this guide is to support students in composing their thesis. There is no claim of completeness and it is the responsibility of the students to inform themselves beyond what is written here.

- Abstract of the thesis
 - Max 1 page
 - German + English, structure like a „real“ article: background, aims, methods, results, relevance.
- Introduction
 - Motivation/ background
 - Introduction to the topic
 - Problem description
 - Necessity of the work
 - Aim
 - General aim of the thesis
 - Short description of the steps towards the aim
 - Structure (optional)
 - General structure of the thesis and short description of the chapters
- Literature review/basics
 - Basics/background (has to be written in a way that anyone who is not very versed in the topic can get a principal background to understand the following work)
 - State of research
- Implementation/Application and method(s)
 - Description of the procedures followed, the methods (Experimental apparatus, models, sampling techniques etc.)
 - Maybe also data analysis (otherwise extra chapter)
- Results
 - This chapter should be formulated objective and concise
 - The results have to be clearly illustrated
 - Easy to read figures and tables
 - Describe figures and tables in the main text, what can be seen, what does it mean, trends and important message of the graphics are repeated.
 - If there are a lot of figures/tables they should be included in the appendix and the results are described in summary
- Discussion
 - Do the results make sense? Are they what was expected? Are they reliable?

- What can be derived from the results? Are there trends and tendencies?
 - Can clear statements be made about the results?
 - Comparison between the results and literature
- Summary and outlook (Conclusions)
 - Summarize the main results and relate to the aims/research questions
 - Evaluation of the method used (Was the method well suited for the problem?)
 - Is there a better method that could be used next time?
 - Which conclusion can be drawn from the results (or not)?
 - What still needs to be done? How?
 - Are there new questions?