

Research

For the master thesis research, every student has to conduct a short scientific research. This can be an empirical or a theoretical research. The topic is open, as long as it fits into the field of the master program. The DKE department will briefly introduce their main areas of research, but students are encouraged to propose a research topic themselves. The topic and the research question have first to be approved by the thesis supervisor. To achieve this, the student will create a master thesis research plan containing:

- Date
- Name and student number
- Name of the thesis supervisor(s)
- Title of the master thesis, start and end date of the thesis research
- Short description of the research question
- A list of the main research activities, with a time schedule.

This plan will be signed by the student and the thesis supervisor and then handed in to the Board of Examiners for the formal approval.

It is possible to execute the master project as an external training period. This should be well defined in the master research plan. In this case, the plan should also include the name of the company, the name of the external supervisor, the size of the project and any agreements about payment and confidentiality. The plan should also be signed by the external supervisor.

The research needs to be original in such a way that the thesis supervisor is convinced that this research has not been done before. The research also needs enough depth and still it must be possible to finish it in the set amount of time. It is possible for multiple students to cooperate in a research project as long as it is clear who did what. Moreover, every student has to write his own thesis reflecting his part of the research.

Content aspects

The thesis describes the problem statement, research questions, approach and results of the research. This has to be done in a clear, structured and scientific manner. This includes:

- a clear introduction in which the problem statement and research questions are presented;
- the master student shows proper analysis of complex issues in a new context and is able to formulate a proper problem statement;
- a clear conclusion, based solely on the already used thought out principles and derived results;
- a clear line is shown between problem statements approach methods and the derived results;
- a motivation of the followed approach, reflecting on standard methods and

their presuppositions,

- an adequate description of the followed approach;
- a purposeful and systematic way of collecting data;
- an honest, clear and concise description of the derived results, if necessary using tables;
- an analysis and discussion of the results;
- the usage of relevant and recent literature for the reasoning in the thesis.
- the correct usage of references.

Design aspects

It goes without saying that the correct, scientific references are used. Images and tables are accompanied by an index and caption. Mathematical formula, definitions, etc. have to be properly designed and numbered.

Language aspects

The thesis has to be written in English, considering correct spelling, syntactical structure of sentences and structure of content in paragraphs. The target audience consists of fellow master students and lecturers. Any jargon and/or abbreviations have to be explained unless they are common knowledge for this audience.

Citations

It is allowed to use several short citations. These citations have to be clearly referenced and have to be typographically distinguishable (that is, citations are placed in quotes). Non-allowed citations or missing references will result in a non pass.

Assessment

The assessment will be based on the contents and form of the thesis and the presentation of this thesis.