

Provisional Title of Your Thesis

You & Your Advisor

February 13, 2023

1 Introduction

The introduction describes your topic and why it is important. You can also include information about related work in case you already know about it or want to work ahead.

The introduction section should end in a clearly formulated goal for your thesis. For a research-based thesis this will be a research question, for an engineering thesis an engineering challenge.

2 Structure

In a structure section, you include what type of thesis you are writing and what scientific methods you plan to use. This is also the place to propose a table of contents that makes sense to you.

In the case of a literature review, a method reference could be Kitchenham [1]. Or, if you are using design science, Peffers et al. [2].

A table of contents should be a simple list of headlines, e.g, for a design science thesis:

1. Introduction
2. Problem identification
3. Objective definition
4. Solution design
5. Implementation
6. Demonstration
7. Evaluation
8. Conclusions

3 Expected Work Packages

Planning out work packages gives you a chance to break down your work into smaller tasks. Work packages do not have to follow a strict structure, but it is helpful if you assign a clear identifier to each.

Your work packages are a plan for you and are not part of an evaluation of your work, so feel free to include as much detail as you want.

- **WP1:** Write an introduction
 1. **WP1.1:** Search for related work
- **WP2:** Write a structure
- **WP3:** Write expected work packages
- **WP4:** Write an expected timeline

4 Expected Timeline

A timeline is important to be on the same page with your advisor and must include an idea of when you want to start your work, when it should be finished and mention any deadlines you have. You should plan some milestones for yourself to check your progress periodically. This section, like the work packages, is for you and does not influence your grading.

For bonus points, include a Gantt chart referencing the work packages you previously defined. Consider using a text-based tool to generate your timeline diagram, for example MermaidJS¹ for Markdown or pgfgantt² for LaTeX.

References

- [1] Barbara Kitchenham. Procedures for performing systematic reviews. *Keele, UK, Keele University*, 33(2004):1–26, 2004.
- [2] Ken Peffers, Tuure Tuunanen, Marcus A Rothenberger, and Samir Chatterjee. A design science research methodology for information systems research. *Journal of Management Information Systems*, 24(3):45–77, December 2007.

¹<https://mermaid.js.org/syntax/gantt.html>

²<https://www.ctan.org/pkg/pgfgantt>