

Guidelines for Writing a MSc or BSc Thesis

I am supervising Bachelor and Master theses on topics related to *International Trade, International Macroeconomics, and Firm Organization*, but also other topics. If you are interested in writing under my supervision, you should contact me well in advance (months) of your planned start date.

The number of supervision spots is limited, and I generally award these on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students typically have attended one of my seminars or lectures.

Choosing a Topic

There is no predefined topic list. First, you should decide whether you want to work more empirically or theoretically. If you are interested in an empirical thesis, one of the most important challenges is finding suitable data. A good starting point is to look at papers that have addressed your research question. Another approach is to replicate an existing study using newer data or additional control variables.

Research Proposal

Once you have an idea about the above points, reach out to me, and we will narrow down the research question and the methods together in a short meeting. The next step is to write a research proposal. The goal of the research proposal is to provide a clear outlook for the thesis. It should include:

- A list of literature you plan to study
- A detailed description of the method or model you plan to use
- A description of the dataset (if applicable)

We will discuss this research proposal in a short meeting to avoid misunderstandings and address any remaining questions. Please note that the bachelor thesis is an independent piece of work by you. After the research proposal is completed, you should have a clear and precise to-do list to work independently on your thesis.

Formatting Rules

- **Length:** 25-40 pages for BSc theses; 35-65 pages for MSc theses
- **Formatting:** Use a serif 12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing, and 3 cm margins
 - Attach data, computer code, Appendices or detailed proofs if necessary
- **Bibliography:** References should follow the style commonly used in Economics papers
- **Languages:** German or English
- **Additional Requirements:** Include a cover page and an affidavit (*Ehrenwörtliche Erklärung*)

Helpful Resources

Library Resources:

For writing a Bachelor thesis, some knowledge of literature search techniques might be useful. The library team offers introductory courses. Information about courses, tutorials, and more can be found [here](#). For further assistance, please contact the [Economics library team](#).

Academic Writing Consultancy:

The [academic writing consultancy](#) for all Economics BSc students offers help regarding all questions in the academic writing and research process.

More Information:

Always check the current official administrative regulations for [BSc theses](#) and for [MSc theses](#).