



Information for Thesis Writing

at the Institute of Macroeconomics

Scope

For Bachelor's theses: A Bachelor's thesis should comprise approximately 20 pages (+/-2 pages). The title page, indexes, tables, graphics, references, and appendix are not included in this count.

For Master's Theses: There is no page limit for Master's theses. Typically, Master's theses are between 30 and 40 pages. The title page, indexes, tables, graphics, references, and appendix are not included in this count.

Language and Style

A Bachelor's thesis can be written in German or English. Master's theses must be written in English.

- Font size: 12 pt
- Line spacing: 1.5 pt
- Format: Justified
- Margin: 2.5 cm on each side (right, left, top, and bottom)

Topic Selection and Registration

The start of the thesis can take place at any time. Topics can be found in collaboration with the supervising staff or proposed independently. Master student must prepare a thesis subject independently. Please contact the staff member you wish to supervise you. The thematic focuses of all academic staff of the institute can be found on our website. Please contact only **one** person from the institute for supervision requests. Please prepare topic proposals or areas of interest. After determining the research topic and the specific title of the thesis, it will be formally registered. Subsequently, the regulations and deadlines set out in the study regulations apply. To hand in your thesis, please send a PDF version of your thesis to Prof. Gassebner and the office of academic affairs (Studiendekanat).

Formalities and Structure

The cover page of the thesis must meet the faculty's requirements. An affidavit using the exact wording of the template (in German) must be included with every thesis. See the [faculty website](#).

Mandatory components of your thesis are:

- **Table of Contents:** Present all parts of your thesis in the table of contents. This includes lists, chapters and sub-chapters of your main part as well as references, appendix, and affidavit.
- **List of Figures:** If you use figures in your thesis, list the name, running number, and page number of the figures.
- **List of Tables:** List all tables with their name, running number, and page number.
- **List of Abbreviations:** List all abbreviations used along with their full meaning.
- **Content (Main Part):** Start with an introduction that establishes your research topic, defines the subject of your research and clearly states your research question. Then, in the main part, discuss the subject of your paper, which you will ultimately review critically in a summary. Please keep footnotes to a minimum and explain abbreviations directly in the text when they are first used. Also, number important equations that you wish to refer to later in the text. Use a scientific language style in your argumentation, do not argue in variables. Spelling, grammar, and style are part of the evaluation of your thesis.
- **References:** List the cited literature alphabetically. Ensure uniform presentation.
- **Appendix:** Additional tables, graphs, etc. that are not needed in the main part of the thesis can be listed here. Appendices must be referenced in the main part of the thesis.

Detailed information on drafting the sections described here and the content chapters of a (Bachelor's) thesis can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing - Bachelor's Thesis" on our [website](#).

Principles of Scientific Work

Citations

Use a uniform citation style for quotation. We recommend the Harvard style. Cite within the text, not in footnotes. Example: "...as argued by Acemoglu et al. (2008), ...". Detailed information on correct citation can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing - Bachelor's Thesis" on our [website](#).

References

All studies you cite within the text must appear on your reference list. Texts that you have only read but not cited should not be listed in the reference list. There are no specific requirements for the format of the references, only consistency is important.

Plagiarism

You are required to explicitly mark any part of your text (of more than two words) or thoughts that are not strictly your own. This means that you must write in a way that clearly indicates which parts reflect your own thoughts and which ideas you have borrowed from others. Failure to comply with the principles of scientific writing constitutes intellectual theft and thus plagiarism. With your signed affidavit, you commit to adhering to scientific working practices to avoid plagiarism. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your thesis (i.e., you will fail) and may lead to additional disciplinary measures by the University of Hanover. Do not attempt to copy any works in whole or in part. We check every thesis for its uniqueness.

Literature Research

We provide you with introductory literature at the beginning of your thesis (for Bachelor's theses). Searching for suitable further literature is one of your main personal tasks when writing a thesis. Check the reference lists of the articles we have provided for interesting deepening literature. We also recommend forward and backward searching in literature search programs like [Google Scholar](#). Other good sources for scientific literature include: [IDEAS](#), [JSTOR](#), [NBER](#), and [CEPR](#). More detailed information on types of literature and tips for literature search can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing - Bachelor's Thesis" on our [website](#).

As a rule of thumb, you should aim to list approximately as many references as your Bachelor's thesis has pages. For a 20-page thesis, you should aim for approximately 15-25 references. Expect that only about half of the articles you read will ultimately be used for the reference list.

Wikipedia is **NOT** a scientific source.