

Chair of International Economics

Guidelines for Bachelor's and Master's Theses

Guidelines for Research Proposals

Students who consider writing a Bachelor's (BA) or Master's (MA) thesis at the Chair of International Economics are typically interested in questions relating to macroeconomics, international economics, or economic development. As a rule, BA/MA theses are written in English—except the topic calls for German (e.g., because it relates to a specifically Swiss issue). Interested students are expected to write a research proposal according to the following guidelines.

Research question

The research question must be worded as precisely as possible. A good research question leaves no room for interpretation. You must choose a question that plausibly can be answered within the given framework.

Context and relevance

Every research question arises from a specific context and relates to some economic problem or issue. Your proposal must elaborate on this. Why does the research question arise? Why is it interesting and relevant? What are the benefits of answering the question?

Methods and data

What method(s) will your planned thesis rely on? State whether you plan to do formal modeling (preferred) or an empirical analysis (exception). If you opt for the former, describe the theoretical framework you plan to tweak or build upon. A proposal for an empirical thesis must describe the data and empirical methods you plan to work with. Will it be a descriptive empirical analysis? Or do you plan to identify a causal effect? Show that your planned thesis is doable.

Embedding in the literature

Discuss how your planned thesis fits into the existing literature and, above all, how it will add to the existing stock of knowledge. How does the thesis differ from the existing works? What is new? Cited contributions must be listed in a references section at the end of the proposal.

Procedure

The general procedure for writing a thesis at the Chair of International Economics is as follows.

1. Submission of proposal

Send a detailed proposal to manuel.oechslin@unilu.ch. For deadlines, consult the [faculty guidelines](#). Proposals have to be in accordance with the above guidelines and should be no longer than four pages (including references).

2. Review and notification

Proposals will be reviewed based on their quality and fit. Students with a satisfactory proposal will be invited for a feedback meeting; there may be multiple rounds of revisions. As soon as the revisions are successful, the writing of the thesis starts. Submitters of unsatisfactory proposals will be notified that they cannot submit a thesis to the Chair of International Economics.

3. Submission of thesis

These must be submitted to the Dean's office in accordance with the [faculty guidelines](#). As we may run theses through a plagiarism checker, please also submit a digital version of the thesis to the chair.

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