

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A MSc-MASTER'S THESIS AT THE CHAIR OF ECONOMICS / RESOURCE ECONOMICS
(PROF. DR. LUCAS BRETSCHGER)****Thesis topic areas**

The master's thesis analyses a specific topic from the field of macroeconomics, in particular from the fields of resource economics or growth theory.

Requirements

The candidate should be knowledgeable in the areas of macroeconomics and resource economics and should have selected the competence area *Economics* and attended the courses *Resource and Environmental Economics* (351-0537-00) and *Economic Growth and Resource Use* (351-0552-00).

Furthermore, the attendance of a selection of the courses *Economic Dynamics* (351-0539-00), *Energy Economics and Policy* (351-0510-00), *Macroeconomics of Innovation* (351-0557-00), *International Economics* (351-0550-00) and *Statistics for Business and Economics* (351-0545-00) is highly recommended.

Length

The master's thesis should be approximately 60 pages long (including cover page, table of contents, bibliography, etc., and excluding possible appendices) and with a layout according to the following details: font type: Times New Roman; font size: 12 points; line spacing: 1.5; side margins: both left and right 2.5 cm (using another layout, the page number has to be adapted adequately).

General outline

Outline:

- cover page
- table of contents
- possible list of figures, list of tables, list of abbreviations
- main text
- bibliography
- possible appendices.

The cover page should contain the following information: university, chair, name of professor and supervisor (if different from professor), current study term, topic, name, address and matriculation number of the student.

The conclusions should sum up the essential aspects of the thesis and provide an outlook.

Language

The standard language for the thesis and the supervision is English. As far as possible, the thesis can also be written in German (depends on the mentoring assistant).

Citation

There is no prescribed citation practice. It is important that the citation method is comprehensible and consistent throughout the thesis. You can find a proposed citation method on page 3 of this guideline.

Workstations

The chair cannot guarantee a workstation in the ZUE building. However, there is usually a sufficient number of available workstations on the B-floor of the building (without PC / with access to the internet). Students of D-MTEC have priority over other students concerning free workstations.

Procedure

1) Contact

Applicants for a master's thesis at the Chair of Economics/Resource Economics should contact Ian MacKenzie (imackenzie[at]ethz.ch) by email.

2) Thesis topic

The candidate has the option of either proposing an own thesis topic (i.e. to refine it with the supervisor) or of choosing a topic proposed by the Professor. Making own suggestions is encouraged by the chair. For a list of the proposed topics, contact Ian MacKenzie (imackenzie[at]ethz.ch).

If you submit your own topic, please hand in a short abstract of the research question (approx. half an A4 page). It has to be an economic research question. Please note that we cannot guarantee that you can work on your own topic.

3) Topic assignment

As soon as the proposed topic is accepted / the topic proposed by the professor is definitively determined, the candidate can begin writing the thesis.

4) Supervision

The support will be given mainly by the assigned supervisor, normally an assistant of the chair. However, the main responsibility rests with the professor.

After the advisory meeting, the candidate has the possibility of arranging three additional meetings with the supervisor. A discussion of the thesis outline is mandatory.

5) Submission

The thesis has to be submitted in two printed versions and additionally as an electronic data file (MSWord or TeX-file). PDF-files are **not** accepted.

6) Evaluation

The following criteria are included in the evaluation:

- Structure: structure and table of contents have to be consistent and logical.
- Content: the content must be correct, clear and comprehensible.
- Economic reasoning: great importance is given to the economic discussion.
- Language: accurate wording and correct grammar are expected.
- Literature: the relevant literature should be discussed in a critical fashion.
- Own contributions must be clearly defined and distinguished from literature citations.

7) Final review

After the evaluation and the grade assignment, there is a final review with the student.

Proposed citation practise

Journal articles

Antweiler, Werner, Brian R. Copland and M. Scott Taylor (2001), "Is Free Trade Good for the Environment?", *American Economic Review*, 91 (4), 877 – 908.

Books

Cole, Matthew A. (2000), *Trade Liberalisation, Economic Growth and the Environment*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Book chapters

Grossman, Gene M. (1995), "Pollution and Growth: What do We Know?" in: Ian Goldin and Alan L. Winters (eds.), *The Economics of Sustainable Development*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Newspaper articles

Muster, Fritz (2002), "Koordination der Gebietskörperschaften", *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Nr. 1 of 9.1.2002, page 35.

Internet pages

Bundesamt für Umwelt [BAFU] (2006), "SwissFlex - das nationale Sekretariat", <http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/swissflex/de/secretariat/index.html>, visited at 18.1.2006.

Laws and regulations

Luftreinhalte-Verordnung vom 16. Dezember 1985 [LRV], Stand am 23. August 2005, SR-Nummer 814.318.142.1.