

**MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2019-2020**

THESIS PROPOSAL WRITING GUIDE

You are about to start one of the most important requirements of your degree: the Master Thesis. In your Master Thesis you are asked to demonstrate your research skills and analytical abilities, to present original ideas and show your creativity, in addition to what you have learned during your studies at the OSCE Academy.

A master thesis is a research project for which you investigate a particular issue of academic significance on your own in consultation with your Thesis Supervisor. The thesis must constitute an original scholarly inquiry, it should clearly demonstrate your ability to conduct a critical analysis and for abstract reflection. A thesis needs to have a clear purpose – of proof; of solving the academic puzzle; of increasing our knowledge – and should be written in an academic manner. The pure description or compilation of already known material is not sufficient. The selection of your thesis topic and the development of a good proposal are key ingredients for the work towards writing a successful master thesis. Selecting your Thesis Supervisor is equally important in producing a successful thesis: she should possess expertise in the field of academic inquiry that you intend to engage, she should be someone who is willing to devote her time to supervise your work and who is open to establish a good academic and working relationship for the whole period of thesis work.

Please read carefully the Academic Regulations, the MA Thesis Supervisory Agreement as well as the MA Thesis Style and Formatting Manual for more details. These documents will assist you with structuring and formatting your thesis as well as familiarizing you with the academic requirements of the Academy as related to the MA Thesis.

The goal of this guide is to help you start with your Thesis, i.e. the development of your Thesis Proposal, which might serve as an introductory part of your Thesis as well. Writing a good proposal is an indispensable part of the process of writing a Thesis. The Thesis Proposal will help you to determine if your research is feasible, it will demand from you to provide with a clear focus of your academic inquiry, and it will request from you to have a plan for working on your Thesis. To make the proposal development process doable, the Study Programme requires students to work in three ascending stages:

A thesis proposal should explain the research question and include a preliminary review of the relevant literature. It should propose a theoretical or applied interest, the methodology for addressing the question with specification of the resources. A thesis proposal will help you to find out if your research is doable and also, keep you focused while writing a thesis.

I. THESIS TOPIC AND RESEARCH QUESTION

[please send to Jazgul Bolot kyzy, EGD Programme Assistant via j.bolotkyzy@osce-academy.net
Deadline is 30 May 2020]

The selection of an acceptable topic of your thesis and developing a good proposal are key ingredients for the work towards writing a successful thesis. The main issue is to delimit the scope of the topic. It will be impossible to research properly in case a topic is too broad. But the too

narrow topic may produce the risk of being insignificant. The topic should be selected from economic governance and development area.

Select your thesis supervisor according to your research interests. It should be a person who would be willing to devote his/her time to supervise your work and with whom you will be able to establish a good academic and working relationship (which is equally important in producing a successful thesis). It is very important to keep in touch with supervisor regularly, as he/she will guide the development of your dissertation.

Requirements:

- Proposed title.
- Proposed supervisor, her/his full name and institutional affiliation.
- Short description of your topic.
- Research question(s).
- Length of document must be 300-400 words, 1.5 line spaced, using 12 Times New Roman. (details to be discussed in your Research Methods/Thesis Seminar classes).

II. SUBMISSION OF A FINAL VERSION OF MA THESIS PROPOSAL

[Submission of a final version of MA thesis proposal deadline - 30 June 2020, 9.00 a.m.

Please send to Jazgul Bolot kyzy, EGD Programme Assistant via j.bolotkyzy@osce-academy.net

Thesis proposals will be evaluated by the members of the colloquium committee.

Evaluation results and recommendations will be sent you by email by 20 July 2020.

There is no need to prepare a Power Point presentation.]

Please note that comments and questions under each section are given to guide you and give some general idea. You do not have to answer all of them. You may address each section individually depending on your research need. Consult with your Thesis Supervisor to modify your final Thesis Proposal where needed.

Requirements:

a) Title

- Should be a reflection of the contents of the document.
- Should not include abbreviations
- Should be justified on scientific or policy grounds.
- Should not exceed 15 words.

b) Literature Review

Before collecting and analyzing the information relevant to your investigation, you should review the key research publications in this area (books, articles, databases etc.). Literature Review should include:

- Review theoretical and empirical literature relevant to your topic and the connection of literature review to the research questions/objectives.
- The literature should be reviewed chronologically (from the earliest to the latest).
- Research gaps /A critic of literature

c) Summary

- Short statement of the problem, study purpose, data collection and processing, data analysis, findings and recommendations.

- Should not exceed 400 words and should be one paragraph.

d) Introduction

- Background information of the problem.
- Describe the problem as it is important issues to be investigated.
- The problem area and major research gaps in related to the research issues.
- Genesis and understanding of the problem.
- Target group (if applicable).
- Should be approximately 2-3 pages.

e) Statement of a problem. Significance of the study

- Clear description and nature of the problem: indicate exactly what the problem which you are trying to contribute a solution is. Use information to support this (statistics or evidence).
- Clearly show the gap that the research intends to close. Why is it important to address the problem?
- Illustrate why the research important, how it is different from other existing research and whom it shall benefit.

f) Research Question(s)

- What question do you want to find out in your thesis?
- Why and how it is a problem?

g) Hypothesis (if applicable)

- Do you want to test any argument or affirmation in your thesis?

h) Theoretical Framework

- Analyze the research problem using theory.
- Use economics' theoretical tools. (For example theories of market structure, demand and supply, production and cost, customer behavior in microeconomics and aggregate demand and supply, money demand, consumption expenditure, investment demand, balance of payment, growth models, and models of unemployment in macroeconomics). If you want to investigate the influence of financial depth on economic growth, you could employ growth provide a theoretical link between the objectives and the methods and procedures; identify relationships, or types of relationships, that are necessary to achieve the objectives; identify relevant variables within relationships.

i) Estimating Model (if applicable)

- Specify the econometric model: static/dynamic, linear/non-linear, structural/reduced form.
- Discuss why the specification is suited to address your research question. For example, how is the model related to the theoretical model (or conceptual framework).
- Discuss the potential econometric problems that might be encountered and indicate how they might be resolved.
- Present any tests to be conducted and why.

j) Research Design/ Methodology

- Indicate type of research and explain why you are selecting particular research type.

- Data collection procedure - survey, interviews, questionnaires etc. Data analyses.
- k) Potential Outcome of your Research. Limitations of the study
- What do you assume/expect to find out from this research?
 - Indicate the challenges met in the study that may have limited the study.
 - Not a must for a proposal. Has to be there in the final thesis paper.
- l) Bibliography
List the literature used in proposal according to Chicago Manuscript format.
- m) Declaration. Any form of plagiarism is unacceptable. Submission of a research proposal with any evidence of plagiarism will be rejected.
- n) Length of submitted document must be 10-12 pages (excluding Bibliography).

III. THESIS PROPOSAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Margins

Margins are the white pages surrounding the text. Left margin must be 1, 5 inches. Right, top and bottom margins must be 1 inch (2.54 cm).

Page numbers

The body of the proposal: use Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4 etc) in the same size and font as the body of the text. Page numbers should appear at the center of the bottom of the page. Use the same font and size that you use for the body of your proposal (Times New Roman, 12).

Spacing

Regular text (body) must be formatted with 1,5 line spacing. This includes chapters, headings and subheadings. Quotations, data in the tables (figures, illustration, etc.) are allowed to be single spaced. Endnotes and footnotes must be single spaced. Bibliography must be single spaced with one blank line after each entry and must be formatted according to the Chicago Style.

Font

Times New Roman, 12 points must be used for the body of the proposal, including the bibliography. For headings, titles of figures (tables and illustrations), subheadings, etc., larger points may be used (up to 16 points). Endnotes and footnotes must be formatted with 10 points. Smaller fonts, down to 9 points, may be used for data in the tables.

Bold face and italics may be used in subheadings, tables, figures, and specific words in text, but extensive use should be avoided.

Style

Proposal must be written in the format determined in the Chicago Manuscript Format. If the proposal, including the bibliography, does not comply with the Chicago Manuscript Format, it will not be accepted by the Academy.

Color

Color may be used for illustrative materials. Do not use colors for regular text, including the headings, chapters, titles of tables etc.

Bibliography

Bibliography must be in the same font and size as the body of the proposal. It should be single spaced, with one entry in between. Chicago Style must be followed in formatting your bibliography.

Appendix (Appendices)

Appendices (if you have any) must be placed after the bibliography. In the Appendix, you may include any information (attachments) that is not directly relevant to your proposal but still worth to mention.

If more than one, they have to be written as APPENDIX A, APPENDIX B and each appendix has to be on a separate page.

Declaration

In this form you take the responsibility for the contents of your proposal and declare that you followed academic honesty procedures.

“Declaration

I declare that I clearly understand §11 of the Academic regulations, and that the submitted paper is accepted by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek of the understanding that it is my own effort without falsification of any kind. I declare that I am aware about the consequences of plagiarism or/and cheating.

Name: Date:”