

## Master- and Diploma-Thesis: Admission and Process

### **Requirements, when Writing a Master Thesis (Master Management)**

- Successful completion of
  - Methods in Management Research (“Quantitative Research Methods” AND “Qualitative Research Methods”),
  - “Interdisciplinary Business Project Strategic and International Management” (Proposal writing already possible parallel to attending the course).

### **Requirements, when Writing a Master Thesis (Master General Management)**

- Successful completion of
  - Methods in Management Research (“Quantitative Research Methods” AND “Qualitative Research Methods”),
  - “Global Strategic Management”,
  - “Advanced Topics in Global Strategic Management” OR “Intercultural Competence”.
- Balance of the ECTS-weighted course grade average of these courses better than 2.3 (<2.3).

### **Requirements, when Writing a Master Thesis (Master Global Business)**

- Successful completion of
  - 30 ECTS courses
  - Methods in Management Research (“Quantitative Research Methods” AND “Qualitative Research Methods”) (attendance in the same semester as proposal hand-in also possible)
- Balance of the ECTS-weighted course grade average of the 30 ECTS courses better than 2.3 (<2.3).

### **Requirements, when Writing a Diploma Thesis (Diploma Program WIWI)**

- Successful completion of the “First Diploma Examination” (“Erste Diplomprüfung”)
- Specialization in International Management - Minor („Schwerpunkt fach“) or Major („Spezialisierungsfach“). Students in the Major have priority over other students.
- Successful completion of all courses of the Minor or equivalent courses completed as part of an exchange program.
- Balance of the ECTS-weighted course grade average (incl. diploma examination grade, if already taken) better than 2.3 (<2.3) in all the courses that have been completed up to the application date.

### **Requirements, when Writing a Master Thesis (MPT - Management Polymer Technologies)**

- Successful completion of
  - Course Management and Marketing
  - Intensive Course Management and Marketing
  - Global Management and Strategy
  - Cross Cultural Management for Engineers
- Balance of the ECTS-weighted course grade average of these courses better than 2.3 (<2.3).

## **First Contact / Meeting**

Students can approach one of the potential supervisors and propose an idea. They need to bring along 1-2 pages, which outline their first ideas about a topic of their interest. This idea draft should briefly describe the topic, its relevancy for the field of international management, the purpose of the thesis as well as the intended way to approach this topic. Required pre-reading for this idea draft is Bryman & Bell 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> ed., chapter on “Planning a research project and formulating research questions” (available in “Downloads” at our website).

## **Finding a Topic**

- We expect that students propose a topic of interest to them.
- Additionally, department members may suggest topics, e.g. as part of a larger research program.

## **Focus**

- The topic of the thesis must be in the area of “International Management” (with a link to the management of polymer technologies/the polymer industry for students in the MPT Master).
- The thesis may be either theoretically or empirically oriented. Given the research problem and the student’s interest and skills, quantitative as well as qualitative studies are possible.
- As part of the literature review, students must search for articles related to their thesis topic in recent issues (last five years) of specified journals (the journal list is available as download document at the department website). However, the scope of the literature review is not restricted to the last 5 years or the main journals, as it will depend on the topic as well.
- The thesis should be written in English.

## **Proposal**

- Informal and non-binding discussion of ideas/topics with individual department members may start the research process.
- Students hand in a written proposal (Master- or Diplomarbeitskonzept), in which they provide information about themselves, the intended topic and preferred supervisor (Master- or DiplomarbeitsbetreuerIn). The proposal should be around 10 pages long and should include:
  1. Cover page including name, student number (“Matrikelnummer + Studienkennzahl”), address, phone number, e-mail address, preliminary title and preferred supervisor,
  2. Suggested topic (about 4-6 pages or 1400-2100 words) including
    - The research problem / aim,
    - relevance of this topic for research in international management,
    - research question(s) and objectives to be accomplished,
  3. When planning an empirical study, the proposal should also include detailed study question(s)/hypotheses and a description of the method (about 1-3 pages or 350-1050 words),
  4. Reference list including all sources cited in the proposal text, plus a separate list covering additional books and articles already read and planned to be included in the thesis,
  5. Planned structure of the thesis outlining the main chapters (table of contents),
  6. Time table,
  7. Proof that students fulfill the requirements stated above (in particular copies of relevant examinations).
- Students should hand in the proposal in electronic format to the department’s secretary ([office\\_iim@jku.at](mailto:office_iim@jku.at)). Students may hand in your proposal anytime during the academic year.

- The department members will review the proposal and contact students regarding acceptance or rejection of the suggested thesis work.
- If the proposal is accepted, the next steps are taken in consultation with the thesis supervisor.
- Upon acceptance, the form “Meldung einer Diplomarbeit/Masterarbeit” (available of the JKU website) needs to be filled out, signed by the supervisor and handed in to Prüfungs- und Anerkennungsservice.

### **Master/Diploma Thesis Seminar**

- **All** students writing their master or diploma thesis with the Department of International Management are required to attend our master/diploma writing seminar.
- In KUSSS, students in the master program enroll in 247.055 (“Master Thesis Seminar: Global Strategic Management”), students in the diploma program in 247.014 (“Diplomandenseminar Internationales Management”).
- **For attending this seminar prior acceptance of the proposal is highly recommended. Thus, in order to be able to fully participate, your proposal should be handed in and accepted by semester start.**

### **Supervisors**

- a.Univ.Prof.<sup>in</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Erna Szabo MBA
- Dr. Grégory Bartel MBA
- Dr.<sup>in</sup> Almina Bešić

### **Writing Guidelines**

- As far as general structure, citations and references are concerned, the department guidelines for academic writing apply. They are available as a download document (“Academic Writing: Initial Information”).

### **Recommended Reading**

- Bryman, Alan & Bell, Emma: Business Research Methods, 3<sup>rd</sup> (2011) or 4<sup>th</sup> (2015) edition. Oxford University Press.

### **Time frame**

After the proposal has been accepted by the department members, students have one year to receive feedback and finish their thesis. Otherwise, their supervisor will send them a reminder, try to discuss the delay, and set a realistic deadline. In case students do not hand in the thesis by the agreed upon date, they will lose their right to be supervised at the department.

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