

Master Thesis: Admission and Process

Main Study Program: Master Management

Requirements, when Writing a Master Thesis

- 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).

Other Study Programs

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 the 30 ECTS 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 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).

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 must be written in English.

Initial Concept

Students need to prepare an initial concept of 1-2 pages at the start of each semester (e.g. in October or March) to be discussed in the Master Thesis Seminar. The concept should 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 3rd or 4th ed., chapter on “Planning a research project and formulating research questions” (available in “Downloads” at our website).

Proposal

- Students hand in a written proposal (Masterarbeitskonzept), in which they provide information about the intended topic and preferred supervisor (MasterarbeitsbetreuerIn). 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 administrative office (office_iim@jku.at). Students may hand in the proposal only when they are attending the Master Thesis seminar.

- 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 on the JKU website) needs to be filled out, signed by the supervisor and handed in to Prüfungs- und Anerkennungsservice.

Master Thesis Seminar

- **All** students writing their master thesis with the Department of International Management are required to attend our master thesis seminar.
- In KUSSS, students in the master program enroll in 247.055 (“Master Thesis Seminar: Global Strategic Management”)
- **For attending this seminar prior acceptance of the concept is a prerequisite. Those students whose concept is accepted, may then write their proposal during the semester.**

Supervisors

- Prof. Dr. Almina Bešić
- Prof. Dr. Henriett Primecz

Co- Supervisors

- Richard Wan MGB
- Maximilian Kuchenbauer MSc

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 & Burgess, Emma: Business Research Methods, 3rd (2011) or 4th (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.

September 2022