

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

### **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” OR “Dimensions of Globalization”,
  - “Advanced Topics in Global Strategic Management” OR “Master Seminar Globalization”.
- 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 („Schwerpunktfach“) 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.

### **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 outline the topic, its relevancy to academia, the purpose of the thesis and the intended way to approach this topic. Required pre-reading for this idea draft is Bryman & Bell 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 the student proposes a topic of interest to her or himself.
- 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”.
- 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, the student must search for articles related to her or his 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 obviously not restricted to the last 5 years or the main journals, as it will depend on the topic as well.
- We recommend that the student writes the thesis in English.

### Proposal

- Informal and non-binding communication with individual department members may start the research process.
- The student hands in a written proposal (Master- or Diplomarbeitkonzept), in which s/he provides information about her or himself, the intended topic and preferred supervisor (Master- or DiplomarbeitbetreuerIn). The proposal 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 including research problem, academic relevance of this topic, research question(s) and objectives to be accomplished (about 4-6 pages or 1400-2100 words),
  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 (table of contents),
  6. Time table,
  7. Proof that the requirements stated above are fulfilled (in particular copies of relevant examinations).
- Please hand in your proposal in electronic format to the department's secretary (office\_iim@jku.at). You may hand in your proposal anytime during the academic year.
- The department members will review the proposal and contact you regarding acceptance or rejection of your suggested thesis work.
- If the proposal is accepted, the next steps are taken in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

### Master/Diploma Thesis Seminar

- A joint thesis writing seminar is offered for all students writing either their master or their diploma thesis with the Department of International Management. It is mandatory to attend this particular seminar (not a seminar offered by another department). **Exception: Students in the Master Global Business need to attend their program-internal Master Thesis Seminar.**
- In KUSSS, students in the master program enroll in 247.055 ("Master Thesis Seminar: Global Strategic Management"). Students in the diploma program are enrolled manually.
- **Acceptance of the proposal is a prerequisite for attending this seminar. Thus, in order to participate, your proposal needs to be handed in and accepted by semester start. Consequently, the deadlines for hand-in are the first days of the semester, i.e. Oct 1 and March 1!**

### **Supervisors**

- a.Univ.Prof.<sup>in</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Erna Szabo MBA
- Katharina Puchmüller MSc (co-supervisor)

### **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, 2<sup>nd</sup> (2007), 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 a one year time period to finish their thesis and get feedback. Otherwise, their supervisor will send them a reminder and set a deadline. In the case they do not hand in the thesis by the specified date, they will lose their right to be supervised at the department.

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