Research Seminar: Master Thesis Writing

MSc in Applied Economics and Data Analysis
Department of Economics
School of Economics and Business
University of Patras
Academic Year: 2024-2025

General Information

Seminar Type: Optional
Seminar Mode: In Class
Instructors: Manolis Tzagkarakis, Nikos Giannakopoulos, Eleutherios Goulas, Ioannis Venetis, Konstantinos Kounetas, George Filis and Dimitris Tzelepis
Contact hours: 9 (6 lectures of 1 and ½ hours)

Description

This course is designed to help students master the process of researching and writing a master's thesis in Economics. It will guide students through key steps of the research process, including how to structure their thesis and develop methodological approaches that align with academic standards. Key topics to be covered include selecting a research topic, drafting a proposal, building a coherent argument, choosing an appropriate supervisor, and managing the overall writing process. The course will be interactive, by exploring each phase of thesis development. Additionally, students will receive instruction on effective research methods, particularly in using library resources. Participants will also have the opportunity to review completed theses and proposals as part of their learning.

Learning Objectives

- Develop practical skills in conducting social research and writing a master's thesis.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Understand the core principles of academic writing and ethics.
- Master the rules of thesis writing.
- Identify relevant academic papers for their thesis and develop skills in reviewing them.
- Formulate a research question and identify the novelty of their thesis.
- Develop analysis techniques that align with their research question.
- Interpret data effectively and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Create high-quality visualizations of data and results.
- Write a structured and comprehensive research paper.

Topics and schedule

Week	Schedule	Topic	Instructors
[Week 1]	21 November 2024 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Master Thesis Structure** This module covers the basic components and chapters of a master's thesis, including introduction, literature review, data and methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. Emphasis will be placed on writing with academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism.	Manolis Tzagkarakis Nikos Giannakopoulos
[Week 2]	12 December 2024 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Introduction** How to effectively introduce a thesis, state the research question, and outline the relevance of the study. Students will examine examples of strong and weak introductions, along with common mistakes to avoid.	Eleftherios Goulas
[Week 3]	20 February 2025 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Literature Review** Best practices for summarizing the state of research on a given topic. Students will analyze examples of good and bad literature reviews, learning to identify gaps in the literature and avoid common errors.	Ioannis Venetis
[Week 4]	20 March 2025 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Data and Methods** This section covers how to describe the data and methods used in a thesis. Students will learn the differences between good and bad data descriptions, with an emphasis on transparency and methodological rigor.	Konstantinos Kounetas
[Week 5]	10 April 2025 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Results** Focus on presenting research findings clearly and accurately. Students will study examples of good and bad result sections, and how to interpret results correctly. Best practices for using visual elements (graphs, charts, tables) to represent data. The course will cover both quantitative and qualitative research, along with examples of effective and ineffective visualizations.	George Filis
[Week 6]	15 May 2025 (17:00 – 18:30, Lecture Hall N. 4)	**Discussion and Conclusion** How to provide a thoughtful discussion and conclusion that integrates research findings with the broader literature. This module will also focus on drawing meaningful conclusions from the results.	Dimitris Tzelepis