

Guidelines for writing a Bachelor or Master Thesis at the Chair of Political Economy

- Students should have participated in at least two courses (lectures and seminars) offered by the chair.
- In case you are interested in writing your thesis at our chair, send an email to your preferred supervisor including your transcript of records and state which courses (+year) you did attend.
- Students are highly encouraged to bring in their own topic proposal/proposal for a research question (in exceptions a topic can also be assigned by us).
- Students are expected to do a first background literature review about to their suggested topic in the beginning.
- Supervisors at the chair usually discuss the topic proposal with the candidate per email and in 1-2 personal/online meetings.
- Afterwards the topic should be finalized and an invitation in the Campus Management System for starting the thesis will be sent out to students.
- The time to complete and hand in the thesis is predetermined by the examination regulations of your faculty (and not by us). The deadline is set by the CMS automatically in accordance (in most cases it has been 6 months).
- For reasons of fairness/comparison students do the writing of thesis on their own. Consulting with the supervisors during this period only takes place for organizational questions.
- The thesis must be written in English.
- The expected length is approx. 20 pages for a Bachelor and ca. 30 pages for a Master Thesis, using standard font sizes. List of references and the appendix are not included here. All these numbers are non-binding.
- Students usually develop a design for conducting an own experiment/study to answer the research question. [The execution of the study is not part of the thesis.] The design should be “ready to go”. Depending on the topic only doing a literature review or working on a theory topic can be supervised as well.
- Theses are usually structured in the following way:
 1. Introduction and Motivation of the Topic
 2. Literature Review
 3. (Explanation of) Study Design (in case you develop an own study)
 4. Conclusion & Discussion
 5. List of References
 6. Appendix
- Theses must be handed in written/printed form (2 copies) at the Chair. To meet the deadline, it is sufficient to send the PDF version per email and hand in the printed (identical) versions shortly after.
- A declaration of authorship must be included in all versions.