

Guideline for writing theses in the Department of Social Sciences of Sport

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Head of the Social Sciences of Sport Department

I. Basic information on the procedure for choosing a supervisor and topic

If you would like to write your thesis in the AB Social Sciences of Sport, we recommend the following procedure.

1. Inform yourself about the requirements to be able to write a thesis in the AB Social Sciences
2. Find out about the research topics of the staff members or possible topic announcements on our website
3. Draft possible questions and methodologies before you approach our staff and arrange an initial interview
4. After the initial interview, write an exposé of max. three (BA thesis) or five (MA thesis) pages with the following content:
 - a. Topic
 - b. Question
 - c. Theoretical background
 - d. Methodology
 - e. Literature
5. After discussing the exposé, you can start working on your thesis and register it at the examination office
6. During the course of your work, you will have the opportunity to consult your supervisor three times
7. Reading samples are not accepted



II. Requirements

- Contact with a possible supervisor and initial interview
- Submission of an exposé of no more than three pages for Bachelor thesis, and no more than five pages for Master theses, containing the following:
 - a. Topic
 - b. Question
 - c. Theoretical background
 - d. Methodology
 - e. Literature

III. Empirical Thesis vs. Literature Thesis

In the Social Sciences of Sport department, you have the option of writing both empirical and so-called literature or theoretical theses.

As a rule, we recommend writing empirical papers, as they are easy to structure and follow a transparent scheme. In addition, data collection, especially in the social sciences, is often not very time-consuming.

In empirical papers, students conduct their own research, for example, by collecting their own data (e.g. questionnaires, interviews, data collection, etc.), whereas in a literature paper or theoretical paper, for example, different scientific theories are compared and discussed.

IV. Scope and structure of a thesis

- **Length:**
 - Approx. 30 pages (Max. 50 pages) for Bachelor Thesis
 - Approx. 60 pages (Max. 80 pages) for Master Thesis
- A thesis can be shortened by agreement with the supervisor if it is written in the form of a (very good) scientific paper and in English (required for Science studies).
- **Structure:** Depending on the research question, the structure may vary, but should follow the following rough scheme:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Theoretical background
 - c. Methodology
 - d. Results
 - e. Discussion
 - f. Conclusion and outlook

V. Formal layout

Please always follow the formal guidelines of the [German Association for Sport Science \(dvs\)](#) or the guidelines of the [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#).

This including the formatting of tables and figures, in-text citations and references, as well as general formatting (as below):

- Set page margins to 1 inch on all sides.
- Double-space all text, including headings.
- Indent the first line of every paragraph 0.5 inches.
- Use an accessible font (e.g., Times New Roman 12pt., Arial 11pt., or Georgia 11pt.).
- Include a page number on every page.

Please always check the latest edition, currently it is 7th Edition (info updated by Feb 2021).

More info: https://www.ulb.uni-muenster.de/lotse/arbeiten_schreiben/zitieren/index.html

Examples of references in the text:

"Noland and Stahler (2017) found that poor and small countries can be successful, especially in athletics, as..."

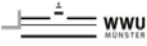

"The results of some studies indicate that the German national football team is less popular in the eastern German states than in the western German states (including Meier et al., 2015)."

Examples references:

Meier, H.E., Konjer, M. & Leinwather, M. (2015). The demand for women's league soccer in Germany. *European Sport Management Quarterly*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/16184742.2015.1109693>.

Noland, M., & Stahler, K. (2017). An old boys club no more: Pluralism in participation and performance at the Olympic Games. *Journal of Sports Economics*, 18(5), 506–536.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1527002515588138>

Sample of cover page:

	
<p>Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster</p>	
<p>Master thesis to acquire the M. Sc. / M.A. submitted to the Institute for Sport Science</p>	
<hr/> <p>Quality of life is associated with physical activity and subjective health in</p> <hr/>	
<p>by Full Name Date of Birth</p>	
E-Mail	: xxx@uni-muenster.de
Student number	: xxxxxx
Study program	: Sport, Exercise, and Human Performance
First examiner	: Dr. ...
Second examiner	: Dr. ...
Date of submission	:

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VI. Submission

Thesis is submitted via the Examination Office I (Prüfungsamt I) of the WWU. Please inform yourself about the formalities there:

<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Pruefungsamt1/>