



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET
HANDELSHÖGSKOLAN

MASTER DEGREE PROJECT IN ECONOMICS

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Master thesis

- Full time the whole spring semester
- The sooner you start thinking about it, the better.





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Formal requirements

- To be eligible to write the thesis, the following has to be fulfilled:
- Academic Credits: 60 HEC
- Of which
 - (1) Mathematics
 - (2) Graduate Econometrics
 - (3) Advanced Micro Theory or Advanced Macro Theory
- If in any doubt, please check with the GS Student Office right away:
study.info@gs.gu.se





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Two things to start thinking about already

- Whom to write together with?
 - We want you to work in pairs unless you plan for PhD studies

- What to write about?
 - A great opportunity to become specialist on a specific topic!
 - Coming up with a good idea could take time
 - Data availability etc

 - Writing a finance-oriented thesis is only possible if you write together with someone from the FIN programme



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Objective of the master's degree project

- Independently analyze problems within economics
- Analysis based on economic theory
- Use scientific methodology
- Make a contribution
- Results presented in a written thesis and orally presented and discussed at a final seminar



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How to come up with a good idea

- Read and listen
 - Lectures, articles...
 - News
 - Friends' problems

Could this be translated into a good idea?

- New
- Interesting
- Doable

Pose a narrow question and a testable hypothesis

Talk to each other

Talk to teachers/researchers



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How to find data

- Collect your own data , questionnaires, experiments etc
- For journal articles, data is often available online
- [Useful data links](#)
- Finding adequate data could take time



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Workshop / seminar

- On November 19, 15:15 – 17, you have the opportunity to discuss and ask about ideas and data.



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Collaboration with external entities

- You could write your thesis in collaboration with, e.g., a firm or an authority.
- One supervisor here and possibly one external.
- You need to fulfil the school's requirements



Timeline for the thesis process

- Now: Start thinking about what you want to write about.
- Nov 19: Thesis idea workshop
- Jan 8: Send research proposal to katarina.nordblom@economics.gu.se
- Jan 20: Spring semester starts and you will be assigned a supervisor.
- Then: work full-time on the thesis
- Mid-May: Your supervisor approves that you present the thesis
- Late May/Early June: Thesis seminars. You also hand in an anonymous version of the thesis to the grading committee.
- June: Graduation ceremony



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Research proposal for thesis to be handed in Jan 8

- Roughly 5 – 8 pages including
- Preliminary Title
- Introduction formulating the research question and its importance.
- Literature Review
- Theory and Hypotheses
- Data and Methodology
- (Results and Analysis)
- (Discussion and Conclusions)
- References

Send this to Katarina.Nordblom@economics.gu.se

- Based on this, I assign a supervisor





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Overview

- A masters thesis is a 20-week project worth 30 credits:
- Thesis must be written in English
- Length: no more than 40 pages (+ ref and appendix)
- Writing tips will be posted on the course page on Canvas
- Target audience: master students in economics
- Thesis grade determined by grading committee in early June
 - Anonymous
 - Research question, method and relevant data, theoretical foundation and depth of analysis are important



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Written thesis

- During spring, you write and get feedback from your supervisor.
- In the middle of May, your supervisor approves if you may present during seminars
- One week before seminar, send seminar version to opponents and an anonymous version for grading.
- You may incorporate the opponents' and committee's comments before handing in the final copy of the thesis to the GS office.



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Oral defense of thesis

- Each thesis group will defend their work in May 2024
- 45 minutes total for thesis seminar:
 - 10 minute presentation (a few PPT slides could be helpful)
 - 30-35 minute opposition and defense (substantive opposition)
- Each thesis group will be assigned an opposition group in May
- Thesis must be emailed to the opponents 1 week prior to the seminar
- The thesis supervisor is the chairman of the seminar
- Opponent prepares 3-4 pages of written, substantive comments on the thesis

- Attendance at 2 other thesis seminars required



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Suggested thesis structure

- Title page and Abstract
- Introduction incl. Importance of the research question
- Literature Review
- Theory and hypotheses
- Data and Methodology
- Results and Analysis
- Discussion and Conclusions
- References and Appendices



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Format

- Title page: Use standard template available on Canvas
- All tables and figures should be:
 - Titled
 - Numbered consecutively
 - Self-contained
- References
 - Cite references in the text, not in footnotes
 - List references in alphabetic order in terms of authors
 - Pick one reference style and stick with it
 - Careful with citations!
- No formal writing style required, but writing in the style of a scientific article is preferable