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### **Bachelor's and Master's theses at the Chair of International Trade ('Juniorprofessur')**

If you are interested in a supervision of your bachelor's or master's thesis by the Chair of International Trade ('Juniorprofessur'), please directly contact Prof. Dr. Florian Unger at least four weeks before your preferred starting date.

Before making contact please note the following information:

- The topic of your thesis should fit well with the focus of the 'Juniorprofessur' in research and teaching. For further information regarding research and teaching please visit: <https://www.economics.uni-goettingen.de/unger>
- To apply for a supervision of your thesis by the Chair of International Trade, please send an email with a short CV, your transcript of records and an exposé of one/two pages, which describes the research question, your strategy to approach the topic, a rough outline of your thesis, as well as a preliminary literature overview.
- After your application you will receive a response and possibly an invitation to a meeting. Please bring along the application form of the examination office.
- For a supervision of your thesis, it is required that you have attended at least one elective course in the area of International Economics (besides the mandatory modules).
  - For bachelor's theses: e.g. International Trade: Theory and Policy, Seminar on Topics in International Trade
  - For master's theses: e.g. The Economics of European Integration, Firms in International Trade
- Your thesis can be written in English or German.

### **What are the requirements regarding the topic of your thesis?**

- Bachelor's theses should summarize the existing scientific literature addressing the research question. The Bachelor's thesis can compare theoretical models and discuss their implications, as well as present (descriptive) empirical analyses.
- Master's theses should contribute to the existing literature by adding a new aspect, which can be an extension of a theoretical model or a new empirical application, e.g. related to the methodology or the data used.

## Guidelines for writing a final thesis

The final thesis consists of the following parts:

1. Title page
2. Table of contents
3. Lists of graphs, tables, symbols (if needed)
4. Introduction and main text
5. Appendix
6. Bibliography
7. Final page with declaration

### 1. Structure of the title page

For information regarding the structure of the title page, please see the information sheet of the Examination Office at the Faculty of Economic Sciences:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/574058.html>

Note that the title of your thesis should exactly correspond to the title you have received at the beginning of your working period.

### 2. Table of contents

The table of contents includes all chapters and sections indicated with page numbers. If needed, lists of graphs, tables and symbols have also to be included in the table of contents. The page numbering starts in Arabic numbers with the first text page and ends with the last page of the thesis. The title page and all preceding lists of contents are numbered with Roman numerals starting after the title page.

### 3. Lists of graphs, tables and symbols

Graphs and tables should be indicated with titles (e.g. "Figure 1: Trade equilibrium", "Table 2: German exports 2020") and page number in the particular list of contents. If necessary, a list of symbols can be used to explain their meaning. Please make sure that the same economic variable is not represented by different symbols throughout your thesis, and that in turn the same symbol is not used for several variables.

### 4. Main text

The amount of the main text (excluding graphs, tables, lists of contents and appendix) should be:

- 40 pages for Bachelor's theses (working time: 12 weeks)
- 60 pages for Master's theses (working time: 17 weeks)

The amount of text must not deviate from this guideline by more than 10 percent.

Following guidelines are recommended for the layout of the text:

- Page margins: 2.5 cm on each side.
- Line spacing: 1.5 lines.
- Font type: typical one, middle sized (e.g. Arial with font size 11 or Times New Roman with font size 12).
- Margin justification

To separate sections from each other, you can use empty spaces which should not be too large. Formatting that strongly deviates from these guidelines will not be accepted.

Please note that correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and linguistic expression play an important role for the assessment of your thesis.

#### 4.1 Introduction

The introduction plays an important role for your thesis and should achieve the following goals:

- Motivate the topic (awaken interest, show relevance)
- Describe the main idea / research question and the contribution of the thesis
- Explain methodology and main results
- Provide an overview of the relevant literature

#### 4.2 Citations

An important goal of scientific theses is to clarify the own contribution of the author. You have to write your thesis in “own words”. Hence, it does not count as a contribution if you take parts from other sources and just partially rephrase them. If your thesis contains parts that are literally taken from other sources without indicating them, this represents a major flaw and can lead to the assessment “failed”.

**Whenever you take arguments or ideas from other sources, you have to provide the reference.** We distinguish two types of citations:

- **Literal or direct citations** should be used only as exemptions if the exact wording of a statement matters for the argument. Literal citations have to be cited exactly in the way how they are provided in the original source. If parts of sentences are left out, this will be indicated by [ ... ]. Own additions within a direct citation have to be indicated in square brackets as well.
- **Indirect citations** provide the content of the source in own words.

The **traditional way to cite** works through footnotes. A superscript at the end of the citation refers to a footnote at the end of the same page. This footnote with the corresponding number provides the source of the citation. In case of direct citations, this includes the name(s) of the author(s), the year of publication and the exact page number of the citation. Indirect citations will be indicated by a preceding “cf”. All references have to be precise and verifiable, such that readers can find the original sources provided in the thesis.

If you take tables and figures from other sources, a clear reference has to be included below the particular table or graph, containing the author, year of publication and page number. If you create own figures or tables, please add the description: „own calculations” or “own illustration”.

#### Examples for citations in footnotes:

- 1) Melitz & Ottaviano (2008), p. 299. [direct citation]
- 2) cf. Melitz & Ottaviano (2008), p. 299. [indirect citation]
- 3) cf. *ibid.*, p. 299. [indirect citation, same source in following footnote]

Besides the references, footnotes can also contain additional information regarding the cited literature or detailed explanations that are not suited for the main text. *Note that footnotes should contain stand-alone sentences and not only key words.*

#### American style of citation

As an alternative to footnotes, it is very common to use the american style. In this case, the reference is provided directly in brackets in the main text. The reference includes only the author and the year of publication as well as the page number. *Example: Trade liberalization leads to an increase in the average productivity of an industry (Melitz 2003, p. 1716).*

All figures and tables in the text (as well as in the appendix) should be numbered and indicated with a title (e.g. „Figure 3: Reallocation of market shares and profits“), where the reference is shown under the figure or table (e.g. „Source: Melitz (2003), p. 1715.“).

## 5. Appendix

The appendix can include more detailed mathematical derivations or additional figures and tables, as well as data descriptions. References to these additional contents have to be provided in the main text.

## 6. Bibliography

The bibliography contains all sources of information that have been used in the thesis. In turn, there should be no entries in the bibliography that do not appear in the main text.

**Books** have to be cited with author as well as editor, year of publication, title, edition and location.

*Example:* Feenstra, Robert C. (2015): „Advanced International Trade: Theory and Evidence Second Edition“, Economics Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

**Journal articles** require the following information: author, year of publication, title, name, volume and page numbers.

*Example:* Melitz, Marc J. (2003): „The Impact of Trade on Intra-Industry Reallocations and Aggregate Industry Productivity“. *Econometrica* 71 (6), pp. 1695-1725.

**Chapters of books** are indicated with names of authors, year of publication, title of the chapter, name of the editor and title of the book, location of publication and number of pages.

*Example:* Antràs, Pol & Yeaple, Stephen R. (2014): „Multinational Firms and the Structure of International Trade“, in: Gopinath, Gita, Helpman, Elhanan, & Rogoff, Ken, „Handbook of International Economics“, vol. 4, pp. 55 – 130, Amsterdam: Elsevier.

In case of **internet sources** you have to indicate the author, title, the weblink and the date at which you have accessed the source.

*Example:* Krugman, Paul: „Ending Greece’s Bleeding“, in: [http:// nytimes.com/2015/07/06/opinion/paul-krugman-ending-greeces-bleeding.html](http://nytimes.com/2015/07/06/opinion/paul-krugman-ending-greeces-bleeding.html), accessed on 06/07/2015.

Journal articles and discussion papers that are available as printed versions are often accessible online. These sources count as printed publications rather than internet sources. To the letter belong only sources that are exclusively accessible through the internet. The citation of a discussion paper includes the name and the number of the working paper.

*Example:* Bloningen, B.A. (2005): “A Review of the Empirical Literature on FDI Determinants”, NBER Working Paper no. 11299.

All references in the bibliography have to be ordered alphabetically. If an author appears several times, then the contributions should be stated in chronological order. If several publications of the same author(s) appear in the same year, then the corresponding year is complemented by a,b,c, etc. Please use the most recent versions of books and articles.

## 7. Declaration at the end of the thesis

At the end of Bachelor’s and Master’s theses a declaration has to be added that the thesis represents independent work of the author. Please see the information sheet for final theses of the examination office:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/574058.html>

## 10 Suggestions for writing your final thesis

To avoid typical errors, please take into account the following suggestions in addition to the guidelines above:

1. A scientific thesis is not a crime novel. Do not surprise the reader with sudden twists of the story. Rather, your thesis should be characterized by a clearly structured and precise argumentation. Especially the introduction should not leave the reader in the dark about the storyline but rather summarizes contribution, methodology, and main results of the thesis.
2. Write the introduction as the very last step of your thesis. Can you explain your research question, your approach and the main findings in less than five minutes at the kitchen table? If yes, you are ready to write it down. If not, think deeper about the structure of your arguments. Do not forget to include the literature overview in your introduction. To show the precise contribution of your thesis, you are required to discuss the positioning in the literature.
3. Do not become superficial in your writing. Good scientific work focuses on the key points while clearly explaining the applied methodology and the solution to potential problems.
4. Show that you are able to understand complex relationships and explain them in a clear-cut way. Make sure that the common theme of your thesis is always present.
5. Do not build on only a few sources of literature. Think critically about different studies and perspectives to approach a problem. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a particular methodology or approach? Which difficulties or weaknesses have to be addressed to find an answer to the research question?
6. In finding the appropriate literature sources, concentrate on the most relevant and important publications. Important criteria include the quality of the journal or the working paper series, as well as the number of citations.
7. Most final theses include too few rather than too many citations. You have to indicate at each point whether an argument is your own or is taken from another source.
8. Direct citations are the exemption not the rule. You only need them if the exact wording and not only the content of the argument really matters. Typically, this case is rare.
9. An indirect citation is also a citation. As soon as you use foreign reasoning, arguments or results, you have to indicate the corresponding reference in your thesis. This is also required if you do not cite literally.
10. Just citing indirectly from other sources by changing the used language does not count as own contribution. You show your contribution by comparing and critically assessing different concepts in the literature, explaining the economic intuition behind complex methods, and by conducting own (theoretical and/or empirical) analyses.