

Master's thesis assessment form used in Communication and Information Studies (CIW)

Please note: This form is intended to help in assessing the thesis and in providing the student with feedback. It is also presented to assessment committees during independent quality inspections and on similar occasions. The completed form should therefore be electronically submitted to the Examination Board for archiving.

Name of student:

Student number:

Supervisor(s):

2nd reader:

1. Introduction and theory				
Problem definition and relevance	fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
The thesis is embedded in a broader context. The writer describes how the thesis is intended to supplement insights from the academic literature.				
The theoretical and practical relevance of the thesis is clearly stated.				
The problem definition is clearly and concisely formulated as a question without a trivial answer, and which can be answered on the basis of several months of research. The problem definition is (usually) broken down into sub-questions which are reflected in the chapter structure.				
Treatment of academic literature	fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
Scientific theories and research findings about the thesis topic are stated fully, accurately and comprehensibly				
The discussion of the literature leads to the student's choice of a research approach / research model / hypotheses in order to answer the problem definition.				
Key concepts are operationalized as thoroughly as possible through definitions which are consistently maintained.				
Gearing approach to selected topic	fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
For a thesis that tests a hypothesis: the hypotheses follow from the literature discussed and are precisely formulated. Together they provide a possible answer to the problem definition.				
For an exploratory thesis: the "sensitizing concepts" that form the basis for exploring the topic follow from the literature discussed. They are accompanied by a preliminary description, demonstrating how phenomena in the research field may be identified, organized or annotated.				

	For a literature survey or meta-analysis: the hypotheses to be confirmed or rejected in the various studies are formulated precisely. The concepts contained therein are accompanied by a preliminary description.				
	There is sound reasoning for selecting a thesis that tests a hypothesis, an exploratory thesis or a literature survey.				
2. Method		fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
	The various aspects of the <u>research design</u> (survey, content analysis, case studies, experiment, etc.) are identified. The choice of study / <u>data</u> collection / research materials is consistent with the problem definition.				
	The <u>operationalization</u> / detailed description of the theoretical concepts is sufficient to make the connection with the research material.				
	<u>Aspects relating to research</u> (reliability, validity, sampling, non-response, choosing multivariate analysis, generalizability, type of triangulation, etc.) receive the necessary attention				
3. Results		fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
	A readable description of the research material based on the defined / operationalized concepts is provided.				
	The research method used to address the problem definition is applied adequately from a research viewpoint				
	The results are described systematically, where possible in explanations accompanying tables and figures presenting the results. In a thesis that tests a hypothesis, it should become clear whether the hypothesis can be accepted. In an exploratory thesis, it should become clear how provisional ideas (sensitizing concepts) are defined more clearly. In a literature survey, it should become clear what the final verdict is on the central hypotheses stated in the studies examined.				
4. Discussion and conclusion		fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
	The problem definition is answered explicitly; conclusions are drawn on the basis of the results and they expand on the academic literature already available.				

The implications of the research results for further theoretical development are formulated.				
Critical reflection takes place on the research methods used and the shortcomings of the study; possible avenues of further research are indicated.				
The significance of the research is placed in a broader context; where possible applications are touched on or recommendations given.				
5. Other aspects	fail	pass	good	explanatory notes (where necessary)
A clear distinction is made between the writer's own observations and opinions, and the observations, assumptions and visions of others, and there is nothing that even hints of plagiarism or academic misconduct.				
The use of language is impeccable (spelling, grammar). The writing style is clear (objectifying and systematic yet comprehensible and vivid).				
The structure of the thesis is clear, the problem definition and sub-questions serve a structural purpose for the argument. The thesis is of an appropriate length; any deviation from the guideline (between 13,000 and 17,000 words) must be justified.				
The literature references, tables, figures and chapter structure are in compliance with a standard format (usually APA, but in some cases a different format may be adopted).				
Originality				
The thesis is written with a high degree of academic self-motivation within the specified time; the comments of the supervisor have been promptly and properly incorporated.				

Final grade for the Master's thesis

Summary of the thesis assessment and/or explanation of the final grade
(if not apparent from the assessment of each component)