



MRES THESIS – GUIDELINE

In the MRes Program students must complete an extended piece of writing (a thesis) to meet the requirements for the completion of the program.

The thesis is worth 10 ECTS, and it should demonstrate the student's ability to understand economic research and the ability to write a paper that complies with the academic style of writing.

In writing the thesis students are encouraged to draw on research that they dealt with in the Research Seminar or in other MRes courses. In any case the topic of the final project should be approved by a faculty member.

Recommendation: Although the minimal requirement is to involve two professors in the MRes defense, it is in your best interest to involve as many professors in your area as possible. The earlier you involve professors in your research, the better.

COMPETENCES TO BE DEVELOPED

Critical attitude

Ability to synthesise

Applying knowledge

Analytical thinking

Working Methodically

Acquiring information

Oral communication

LENGTH AND STRUCTURE

The length of the thesis should be between 15 and 30 double-spaced pages of standard length.

Given the research nature of the master, the structure of the thesis should be that characteristic of the scientific method, and in the format of an article publishable in a specialized journal.

CONTENT

The thesis can be:

i) A well-structured, analytical discussion of a line of economic research (several, related research papers).

In this case, the paper cannot simply be a summary of several articles from professional economics journals, but it has to provide some value added. This could be provided by evaluating the relative merits of this line of research, or by highlighting to what extent this theory fits with other parts of economic theory or with empirical work. It would also be acceptable to explain why alternative or complementary theories cannot be distinguished with the available data and what kind of data or empirical exercise (experiment) would be useful for understanding which theory has greater validity or applicability.

ii) A piece of original research. In this case, the paper could:

A) Start with a policy question and try to address it theoretically or empirically.

B) Start with a stylized empirical fact and build and/or empirically verify a theory that can explain this fact.

The paper could build on previous work you have done in the Master or previously. But of course it has to be recognizable as a distinct piece of work by somebody who reads the paper and your previous work.

TIMETABLE

By the 15th of May you should send the MRes Coordinator:

1. The title of the thesis
2. An abstract between 200 and 500 words.
3. The name of the professor who approved the topic of the project.
4. The name of another professor to act as additional reader. The two professors named above will be asked to attend the presentation of the thesis and evaluate it.

(3. and 4. Must hold a PhD Degree)

By the 15th of June (or at least one week before its public presentation) you should send the MRes coordinator and the two readers the PDF copy of the Thesis

Note: All this information must be also sent in copy to the GPEFM Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Students must agree with the two members of their committee on a day and time to make the public presentation of their master thesis. Both of them must be present in the defense.

The GPEFM Secretary will reserve a room and will announce the defense to the Department (both, professors and graduate students will be informed)

The presentations will last 30 minutes each and will be scheduled between the last week of June and the first week of July (there will be some flexibility in well justified situations).

EVALUATION

The MRes thesis will be jointly evaluated by the two professors in the committee, who will be asked to complete a report and to mark the thesis with a PASS / FAIL mark.

Pass marks will be transferred to the official UPF records as 8 out of 10

If the student fails, he/she will have a second (and last) chance to present it during the first week of September.