



澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE PROGRAM

GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF ACADEMIC THESIS¹

The Master of Science (MSc) in Finance Program of the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) allows students to opt for either Academic Thesis or Applied Thesis to fulfil their research component of the program. An Academic Thesis is a 6-credit thesis applicable to all intakes of students. To be eligible for thesis proposal submission, students from 2013 intake and before are required to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.30 for the course work part of the program. For students from 2014 intake and onwards, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.70 after completion of course work and thesis oral defense is required for graduation.

Academic Thesis shall be supervised by an instructor of Assistant Professor rank or above from the Department of Finance and Business Economics. If circumstances require, a supervisor from outside the department may also be invited. A qualified supervisor must fulfill the following requirements:

1. with substantial related research experience;
2. Doctorate degree holder;
3. Assistant professor rank or above.

To begin thesis writing, students should decide the research topic and direction of their thesis. The thesis nature is restricted to original piece of empirical academic research in the area of Finance or Business Economics. An Academic Thesis should include the following sections:

I. Introduction

- Describing the background
- Justifying the need for research
- Identifying the scope of research

¹ The items mentioned in this general framework are for reference only. The supervisor and student can make amendments that are deemed necessary.

II. Literature Review

- Reviewing relevant literature
- Proposing hypothesis/ propositions (if any)
- Developing the research model (if any)

III. Research Methodology

- Explaining the overall research design
- Describing the data collection process
- Detailing the analytical methods

IV. Findings

- Identifying the research findings

V. Conclusions

- Summarizing the results
- Discussing the research implications
- Explaining the limitations
- Proposing future research

Similar to requirements of other master degree programs of the faculty, the thesis should carry around 10,000 to 25,000 words and must be orally defended. The normal duration of Academic Thesis writing should be two semesters. Upon successful thesis oral defense, a grade / classification will be awarded.



澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE PROGRAM

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES OF ACADEMIC THESIS

This document contains general principles for students of the Master of Science (MSc) in Finance Program of the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) to prepare a thesis proposal for their Academic Thesis.

To be eligible for thesis proposal submission, students from 2013 intake and before are required to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.30 for the course work part of the program. For students from 2014 intake and onwards, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.70 after completion of course work and thesis oral defense is required for graduation.

Proposal Content

A thesis proposal is limited to 10 pages, excluding the cover page, tables and figures in the appendix. It should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font in 1.5 line spacing and printed on double sides of the paper. The reference / bibliography should follow journal formats.

Following is a suggested format for a thesis proposal.

I. Cover Page

The cover page should include the following elements;

Thesis title

Your full name

Name of institution

Degree sought

Name of supervisor

Date of submission

Date of entering the program (optional)

II. Abstract (no more than 200 words)

The abstract should clearly identify the research problem(s)/question(s), background information and the relevant research methodology. Emphasis should be put on the expected significance of the research findings.

III. Introduction (within one page)

The introduction is to provide readers with the background information for the research. Its purpose is to establish the issue(s), concern(s), or motivation(s) leading to the research question(s) and objective(s), so that readers can understand the significance and the rationale underlying the study.

IV. Literature Review (preferably one page, and no more than two pages)

The literature review should not only be a presentation or description of available theories. It should also contain findings from related studies conducted by other researchers. Most important of all, from these descriptions, you must be able to critically demonstrate congruencies as well as discrepancies and to argue on them. The literature review is especially important because it is from this you develop your **theoretical framework/conceptual model** out of which **hypotheses/propositions** are generated to be tested (for quantitative study) and to answer your main **research questions** (for qualitative study). Despite this, the literature review section should be kept short, and therefore does not need to be exhaustive.

V. Research Questions

Research questions, theoretical framework/conceptual model related to your study, hypotheses to be tested, of propositions should be discussed in this section.

VI. Research Design/Methodology (within two pages)

In this section, you should provide a detailed description of the research methodology and the data to be used in the study.

VII. References

The reference section should list out all the references cited in the thesis proposal.

Proposal Submission

When the thesis proposal is ready for submission, students must complete and submit the “Thesis Topic and Proposal Form” along with thesis proposal to the Postgraduate Office of



澳門大學

UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU

UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

FBA. After obtaining decision and comments from the Faculty of Business Administration Graduate Studies Committee (FBAGSC) on the thesis proposal, students will be notified the result. ***Any subsequent changes (thesis topic, supervisor, etc.) may require the submission of a new proposal and are subject to approval of the FBAGSC.***