

Evaluation of Master's theses

Areas of evaluation

I Background of the study (planning)

- definition of the goals
- planning of the study and its stages

II Literature review

- conversance with the field's literature
- selection of the literature (relevance, extensiveness)

III Material and methods (experimental section)

- selection of the material
- applicability of the methods
- accuracy and reliability of the measurements

IV Results

- presentation of the results
- discussion of the results

V Discussion

- consideration of the results
- conclusions made

VI Language used in the study, layout and scientific presentation

Evaluation criteria

A thesis proposed to be approved is expected to demonstrate the author's skills in the use and application of scientific knowledge and scientific methods. The thesis may contain some shortcomings; however, in order for the thesis to be approved, a minimum grade of sufficient (1) needs to be obtained from each of the areas of evaluation. The thesis must fulfil the research ethics criteria and it must comply with the writing, referencing and format-related instructions of the discipline concerned.

Applicable parts of the following evaluation criteria are used in the grading of Master's theses.

Sufficient (1)

I Background of the study (planning)

1. The research problem is not clearly defined.
2. The research questions are unclear or poorly formatted and justified.
3. The goals of the study and the research problem and research questions are defined only superficially.

II Literature review

1. The use of references is not extensive enough in view of the topic.
2. The selection of the literature does not fully support the goals of the study.

III Material and methods (experimental section)

1. Part of the material is left unused.
2. The selected research method is suitable for the examination of the research question, but the use of the methods is insufficient.
3. The assessment of the reliability of the material and methods is not extensive enough.

IV Results

1. The results provide only a partial answer to the research question.
2. The results are presented understandably, but superficially.
3. The visual illustrations of the research results (figures, tables, quotations) are not clear and do not support the results.

V Discussion

1. The discussion section provides only a superficial review of the author's own results in relation to earlier findings.
2. The assessment of the reliability of the study is not extensive enough.
3. The conclusions made are incoherent or insufficient.

VI Language used in the study, layout and scientific presentation

1. The language used is not completely fluent.
2. The study partially complies with the given instructions relating to the style of writing, formatting and referencing, and its layout is neat.
3. The structure of the study is scientifically valid.

Satisfactory (2)

Some areas of evaluation clearly exceed the level of 'sufficient' and partially fulfil the criteria set for the level of 'good'.

Good (3)

I Background of the study (planning)

1. The research problem is clearly defined.
2. The research questions are clearly defined and well justified, and they are well connected to earlier research.
3. The goal of the study is clear and well defined.
4. The student has demonstrated an active and independent approach, but also made use of the given supervision.

II Literature review

1. The literature review is extensive enough, it is relevant to the topic of the study and it is made use of in an appropriate manner.
2. The literature review is critical and objective.

III Material and methods (experimental section)

1. The author has succeeded in using the material in an appropriate manner.
2. The selection of the research method is justified and the method is well suited for the examination of the research question.
3. The reliability of the material and methods has been assessed.

IV Results

1. The results are presented clearly and relevantly and they provide an answer to the research question.
2. The results are presented understandably and logically based on a careful examination of the material.
3. The visual illustrations of the research results (tables, figures, quotations) are logic and consistent with the research results.

V Discussion

1. The discussion section provides a good review of the author's own results in relation to earlier findings.
2. The reliability of the material and methods has been assessed.
3. The conclusions made are clear and they meet the goals set for the study.

VI Language used in the study, layout and scientific presentation

1. The language used is fluent, comprehensible and scientifically valid.
2. The study as a whole is well finished and flawless in terms of the language and referencing technique used.
3. The structure of the study is balanced.

Very good (4)

Some areas of evaluation clearly exceed the level of 'good' and partially fulfil the criteria set for the level of 'excellent'.

Excellent (5)

I Background of the study (planning)

1. The scientific and social justifications of the study are extensive and well structured.
2. The share of independent planning is significant.
3. The study is innovative and creates new viewpoints into the topic.

II Literature review

1. The literature review is extensive and well defined and the selected works represent the most recent research knowledge relating to the research question.
2. The literature review is critical, deep and demonstrates the author's independent thinking and vision.

III Material and methods (experimental section)

1. The material is made use of in an excellent manner.
2. The selection of the research method is justified extensively and is the result of critical thinking. Moreover, the research method is extremely well-suited for the examination of the research question.

IV Results

1. The results provide an excellent answer to the research question.
2. The results are presented consistently.
3. The study provides new viewpoints into the research question.
4. The visual illustrations of the research results (tables, figures, quotations) are extremely clear and supplement the research results.

V Discussion

1. The discussion section evaluates the results consistently and critically in relation to earlier findings.
2. The reliability of the results and methods has been assessed thoroughly.
3. The conclusions made provide an excellent answer to the research questions and the conclusions are presented both critically and in a justified manner.

VI Language used in the study, layout and scientific presentation

1. The language used in the study is stylistically excellent and inspiring to the reader.
2. The structure of the study is balanced and controlled.
3. The referencing technique systematically complies with the instructions of the discipline concerned and the use of references demonstrates scientific exactness.