UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS
Faculty of Business and Economics

Thesis Development

General data

Course code:	
ECTS credits:	15
Type of the course:	Thesis development
Semester:	Fall, Semester 4
Course restrictions:	-
Course leader (with availabilities):	*Dr. Evelyn CALISPA, Assistant Professor* *evelyn.calispa@pte.hu* *office: B243*
Further lecturer(s) (with availabilities):	*Thesis supervisors*

1. Description and aims

In this course, Master's level students receive practical assistance in developing their thesis projects. The course aims to evaluate and develop students' writing abilities and skills for thesis writing. As part of the supervisor's consultation, students will present their research findings, approaches, and drafts. Students will work with the guidance of their thesis advisor to produce the final draft of the thesis. The advisor and student will work together to create a plan for communication during the Master's thesis writing process. In this way, students can finish their thesis by the end of the semester. The course helps students develop the skills to conduct research and use its outcomes in entrepreneurial decision-making. In this course, students will read, research, write, and discuss their writing in a process-oriented manner. In addition to developing academic skills, it serves as a pathway to postgraduate study. An emphasis is placed on ethical research, and the thesis supervisor supports its implementation. Besides individual consultations, there are group sessions as well.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

CILO 1. Design a research project (identify research question(s) that can be answered scientifically soundly within the given amount of time, be familiar with the different stages in the research process, see the relationships between the choice of a research question, theoretical perspective, research design and choice of method (PILO 3, PILO 7);

CILO 2. Systematically review (academic and/or practitioner) existing literature to develop appropriate research objectives and research framework (PILO 1, PILO 3);

CILO 3. Document and synthetize the findings of a literature review (PILO 4)

CILO 4. Analyse and interpret the data using appropriate techniques to derive conclusions, and demonstrate an understanding of limitations of the research (PILO 3, PILO 4);

CILO 5. Use quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis techniques (PILO 3, PILO 4)

CILO 6. Prepare a coherent, logical, and correctly referenced piece of work *(PILO 4, PILO 5, PILO 8).*

(The remarks in brackets express each CILO's connection to the Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs).)

3. Content, schedule

General topics of thesis writing are delivered via intensive seminars. These group sessions should touch the following topics:

1. Formal requirements. Analysing organisational patterns of MsC/PhD theses, Thesis chapter analysis and discussion.

2. Literature review techniques

3. An understanding of basic research methods, identifying their strengths and limitations.

4. Formal requirements. Ethical issues in research: plagiarism and use of generative AI.

The consultations should touch the following topics:

1. Examination of the issues involved in carrying out the research project, including roles and responsibilities of the supervisor and the supervisee

2. Critical evaluation of qualitative and quantitative approaches to research

3. Quantitative data collection methods and analysis, with a primary focus on questionnaires

4. Qualitative data collections methods and analysis, focusing on different types of interviews

5. Writing up research, developing clear aims and objectives, reporting the relevant literature, and developing a competent structure and writing style.

4. Learning and teaching strategy, methodology

Principal teaching methodologies: lecture, written assignement, quiz, consultation

This module relies heavily on self-study under supervision. Students will be required to attend supervisory consultations and communicate with their supervisors for feedback. Students will make extensive use of the library and online resources to complete the different stages of the assessment. In total, three consultations are minimally required.

Four seminars take place within the first four weeks of the semester (1x75 minutes per week). In these seminars, students will learn about formal thesis writing requirements, literature research techniques, possible analysis methods, ethical issues related to research, and how to reference sources properly (case of plagiarism) (CILO 1,2,3).

Students are required to consult with their supervisor on the introduction and the literature review six weeks before the thesis submission deadline (CILOs 1, 2, 3).

Students are required to consult with their supervisor the empirical analysis or the detailed theoretical elaboration (if there is no primary research done), including methodology two weeks before the thesis submission deadline (CILO 4, 5).

Students are required to consult with their supervisor the conclusions five working days before the thesis submission deadline (CILO 6).

5. Assessment

Formative assessment elements: Feedback on the research topic, the research plan and process will be provided by the thesis supervisors. Students should contact their allocated supervisor by the first week of the study period in which the thesis is to be submitted.

Summative assessment elements:

Individual Assessment	100%	Group Assessment	0%

Name of the element	Weight	Type	Details	Retake opportunity	Req.*	Related CILOs
Quiz or exercise	40%	Individual, written, coursework	Every class will include at least one practical written activity, such as a quiz or application exercise. The tasks assigned in class will relate to the content studied and its application to each student's research topic.	yes	yes	1,2,3
Consultation activity	60%	Individual, oral <u>and</u> written, coursework	Students are required to schedule and attend meetings with their advisor, respond to inquiries and requests by advisors, and attend all core events related to the thesis. Should the student miss to consult by his/her supervisor in due time (see formative assessment above), the	no	yes	1,2,3,4,5,6

		supervisor has the right to deny the acceptance of consultation, the student fails Thesis – Consultation module and consequently cannot submit the thesis in the given semester.			

* Req.: Completion of the element is required to pass the course, irrespective of the performance in other elements.

6. Learning materials

- **Essential**

  Eco, U. (2015). *How to write a thesis*. MIT Press.

  Requirements for Thesis writing UPFBE, available at
  https://ktk.pte.hu/en/students/studies/master-programmes/thesis

- **Recommended**

  Bailey, S. (2015). *Academic writing for international students of business*. Routledge.

  Calispa-Aguilar, E (2021). Rural entrepreneurial ecosystems: A systematic literature review for advancing conceptualisation. *Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review*, *9*(4), 101-114.

  University of Pécs available databases: https://lib.pte.hu/en/databases

  Scopus database: https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic#basic

7. Further information

International aspects embedded with the course
Depends on the topic of the thesis.
Ethics, Responsibility & Sustainability (ERS) aspects embedded with the course
Ethical research is an essential requirement. Every thesis work will be checked with the support of anti-plagiarism software to avoid unethical scientific behaviour. The potential negative ethical implications of use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in thesis writing will be ebedded in the content of this course. Further ERS aspects depend on the topic of the thesis.
Connections to the World of Practice of the course
For their research, students can employ primary data coming from companies/institutions if available. Further WoP aspects depend on the topic of the thesis.