

Guidelines for academic thesis writing in Germany

Recommended structure and contents for a thesis at IMS

Title sheet

At the IMS, the title sheet has to include the name and address of the institute, title of the thesis, name of the author, the examiners/supervisors, and the start and end date of the thesis. For an example, see our Latex template: <https://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/documents/lehre/studentenarbeiten/ThesisExample.zip>. Non-Latex users may want to have a look at the PDF generated from the template: <https://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/documents/lehre/studentenarbeiten/ThesisExample.pdf>

Selbständigkeitserklärung

See page two of our [Latex template](#) or the [PDF](#).

Table of contents (including list of figures/tables/abbreviations, all sections, the appendix, and the references)

(optional: List of figures/tables/abbreviations)

Introduction

Material in this section, as well as for next two sections, adapted from: https://www.sz.uni-stuttgart.de/dokumente/schreibwerkstatt-materialien/textsortenwissen/Checkliste_Was-gehoert-in-eine-wissenschaftliche-Arbeit-Inhaltlicher_Aufbau_einer_Arbeit.pdf

Why is the topic relevant for CL? Is there an actual reason for selecting this topic? Why is this topic interesting?

What exactly is the research question? Can it be divided into sub-questions? Which ones? Why?

Explain the structure of the rest of the written document. What is discussed in which chapter/in which section?

Checklist:

- I introduce my topic.
- I explain the problem.
- I narrow my topic down.
- I state the goal of my work.
- I define the research questions that I explore in my work

- I explain why my topic is relevant (to my research area).
- I provide an overview of my approach.
- I provide a brief outline of the rest of the thesis

Main part

Structured in an appropriate way

Figures numbered consecutively and unambiguously; Tables numbered consecutively and unambiguously

Possible structure of main part:

Background

Which theories is your work based on?

What work are you building off of?

What has already been found so far?

Material and Methods

Which methods did you use?

How did you investigate the research question concretely?

Which data did/do you collect/use/analyse?

Which hypotheses did you start with?

Experiments/Results

Detailed results of the experiments/findings

Discussion

How do you interpret your findings?

What does this mean for your research question?

Could you confirm your hypotheses?

Could you verify or falsify other work?

Conclusion

Briefly summarize the main results once more

- What did I find?
- What was new, what was unexpected?
- Were the methods appropriate?
- What problems occurred?
- Motivate other research and give an outlook: how could the research question be investigated further in the future? How could your results be applied, verified, or refined?
- What else might be relevant in this research area?

- What future benefit could come from your work?

All questions mentioned in the Introduction should be addressed again in the Conclusion.

Checklist:

- I summarize the key points of my work again
- I answer all of the questions that I raised in the introduction
- I interpret the results with regard to my research question.
- I have explained how my results fit into the larger research context.
- I give an outlook for future work.

(optional: Appendix)

Possibly: code, or excerpts from the code, or transcripts of interviews, annotation guidelines,
...

References

To do: integrate

https://www.sz.uni-stuttgart.de/dokumente/schreibwerkstatt-materialien/textsortenwissen/Zitieren_Paraphrasieren.pdf