

FAQ

Organisation

Is there a maximum page limit for my bachelor or master thesis?

The regulations for page limits vary depending on the examination regulations specific to the course of study. If you write your thesis at our chair, your thesis should be 30 pages (+-10%, excluding bibliography and appendix) for a Bachelor thesis and 70 pages (+-10%, excluding bibliography and appendix) for a Master thesis.

Which literature management program should I use?

We recommend the free literature administration program "Zotero" (<https://www.zotero.org/>). Of course, you can also use other literature administration programs. If you choose "Zotero", use the (usually) default citation style "Elsevier Harvard (with titles)". While using other literature management programs, make sure that you use the correct citation style ("Elsevier Harvard (with titles)").

With whom is a Bachelor's or Master's thesis registered?

We register your Bachelor's or Master's thesis at your respective examination office after receiving the registration form. Please make sure you fill in the correct form yourself. Master students bring the application form with them to the first supervising date. Bachelor students bring the application form to the Bachelor workshop date or at the latest one week after this date. Of course, a previous confirmation of supervision is required.

How must an exposé be structured?

An exposé consists of the problem situation and the resulting question. Furthermore, a literature basis and the current state of research must be given. In addition, the methodological procedure and the structure of the work must be specified. Finally, a preliminary bibliography is presented. For further information please study the document "The Structure of an Exposé".

Which format guidelines do I have to follow?

You will write your dissertation using the Word template we have provided for writing academic papers. The correct format is pre-set in the Word template. The citation guidelines can also be found in this document.

Who is second examiner?

Since the chairs for Global Supply Chain Management (Prof. Kinra) and Logistics Management (Prof. Kotzab) and for ABWL, Maritime Economics and Logistics (Prof. Haasis) work together, the second examiner can be chosen on the basis of this cooperation. If another second examiner be desired, this should be organized independently.

Can the thesis be registered at a later date?

No, the thesis cannot be registered at a later date. If you cannot meet the deadline, please do not apply until the next application window. It is especially important for Bachelor students to meet our deadlines, otherwise a smooth transition to the Master's program cannot be guaranteed.

Preparation of a final thesis

What elements does a scientific work consist of?

In general, a scientific paper consists of the chapters (1) Introduction, (2) Theoretical background, (3) Methodology, (4) Presentation of results, (5) Discussion, (6) Conclusion and outlook. The naming of the individual chapters may vary and, if necessary, chapters (3) and (4) may be summarized. Other important contents can be found in the Word format template. For further information please study the set of slides for scientific work provided by us.

How do I approach a scientific paper in a meaningful way?

First of all, especially at the beginning, it is helpful for you to deal with the scientific literature in your subject area. You should ask yourself various questions such as Which topic am I interested in in general? What are my strengths and weaknesses? Which problems exist in my field of interest? Which of them have not yet been solved? Which methods have been used so far and which have not? Is my idea relevant or not in this field of research?

But not only the literature on the topic area can be interesting. Furthermore, conversations with friends, relatives and work colleagues who have already experienced problems in these areas can help you. Not seldom interesting topics have already emerged from such conversations and observations of practice and environment.

Once you have defined your subject area, you should use the time from now on to work through the literature and put down your idea in an exposé.

How do I choose a suitable methodical approach for my research project?

First of all, a distinction must be made between a deductive and an inductive procedure. Do I try to solve the problem to be investigated by inferring from general to individual cases or vice versa? What kind of data do I need to collect? Is it primary data (which I collect myself) or secondary data (which I can extract from databases). Furthermore, a distinction must be made as to whether the required data is qualitative or quantitative. Once I have made these distinctions, I select a suitable method to collect the desired type of data.

The following scientific papers can give a guideline for the procedure of a methodical literature search:

- "What literature review is not: diversity, boundaries and recommendations" (Rowe, 2014, URL: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/ejis.2014.7>, accessed on 05.02.2018)
- "Conducting Research Literature Reviews" (Fink, 2005, URL: <https://suche.suub.uni-bremen.de/peid=B57781589&LAN=DE&CID=&index=L&Hitnr=1&dtyp=D&rtp=a&Exemplar=1%0A%09%09%09%09%09%09%09>, access SUUB on 05.02.2018)
- "From a literature review to a conceptual framework for sustainable supply chain management" (Seuring and Müller, 2008, URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S095965260800111X>, accessed on 05.02.2018)

May Wikipedia be quoted?

Wikipedia is not (yet) a permitted citation source in a scientific context.

What actually is Statista?

Statista is a German online portal for statistics, which statistically processes data from the economy, market and opinion research institutions and makes them available in German and English. The University of Bremen offers free access to the content of Statista. Since Statista uses and prepares data from business, market and opinion research institutions, it is always advisable to refer to the original source when quoting.

Miscellaneous

Is it possible to arrange a supervision appointment before the application phase to discuss possible topics?

No, supervision with regard to topic identification and the design of the research question is not planned during the application window. Open questions can be clarified with the assigned supervisor after the confirmation of supervision. Independent study of a relevant topic is part of the examination. Therefore, we expect you to work independently on the research problem.

Are external papers supervised?

There are no differences in the evaluation criteria for internal and external theses. In the case of an external thesis, two parties must be satisfied: science and practice. A thesis can develop the theoretical framework to solve a problem in the company and if there is enough time, the empirical contact can validate the developed model. In order not to have a worse starting position before the beginning of your writing phase, we recommend that you write your exposé with a stronger reference to superordinate topics and put the problem into a theoretical context. The focus of your investigation should be on expanding the research landscape or confirming or rejecting theoretical scientific facts.

Why do I need a literature management program?

Working with sources and citations is essential in a scientific elaboration. The correct and structured approach is an additional challenge, especially for the first scientific papers. In order to have more time for the essentials while working, we recommend an automatic solution for the administration of your sources.

Why is a research question important?

With a scientific paper you expand the research landscape with a good topic. In the worst case, you have worked on something that someone before you had already thought through. In both cases, however, you had previously come up with one or more research questions that helped you to distinguish between relevant and unimportant literature. The research question guides you through your intention to write a scientific paper. In addition, your research question helps other researchers and colleagues to better understand your task.

Why do I have to prepare an exposé?

The evaluation of a bachelor or master thesis has strict formal as well as professional evaluation criteria. An important point of evaluation is the independent work. By independently dealing with your topic in sufficient depth, you will acquire basic knowledge in advance and before you register your thesis. This will help you to generate a better overview and to better estimate the amount of work required. In addition, we can identify the areas in which support is required on the basis of your submitted exposé, and accordingly provide specific advice and offer support.

Which topics can I write about at the Professorship of Global Supply chain Management?

In general, topics in Professorship of Global supply chain management can be in relation to these three broad areas:

1. Logistics, operations & Supply Chain Performance

This segment should concentrate on the risk, complexity and the performance analysis approach in the area.

e.g.:

- Controlling logistics risk and performance for Global Supply Chain Management
- Supply chain complexity and delivery performance
- ...

2. Digitization and (Information-) Technology in Logistics, Supply chain management and Operation Management

This segment involves all the modern technologies in terms of digitalisation such as Big data analytics, Blockchain, hyperloop, predictive analytics, machine learning, etc. and how they can be applied in the core title fields.

e.g.:

- Big data analytics and application for logistics management
- Blockchain's roles in meeting key supply chain management objectives
- Blockchain technology and its relationships to sustainable operations management
- Implication of data science and predictive analytics in supply chain management
- New transportation technologies like Hyperloop
- ...

3. Global Supply Chain Strategy

This segment involves the idea of applying the different global supply chain strategies such as Lean, Agile and Leagile Supply Chains.

e.g.:

- Investigating the main problems in implementing Lean in global supply chain of retail industries
- Global supply chain migration from lean to agile and customised
- Postponement strategies for global supply chain
- ...

Note: The topics mentioned here are only for exemplary purpose. The students have the freedom to form their own topics in relevance to the three areas mentioned above. There is also a possibility to combine the areas and generate their own topics such as „Big data and predictive analytics for supply chain and organizational performance“ or „Proactive supply chain performance management with predictive analytics“.

In general, suggestions for topics related to logistics and logistics management from the areas of production, procurement, distribution and disposal are supervised. At the chair of Prof. Kotzab the following more specific and in-depth topics are supervised:

- Intelligent transport systems for individual and commercial transport
- Macro logical performance measurement and investigation of logistics as a factor influencing international trade and foreign direct investment
- Intermodal transport, especially combined transport with rail as the main route
- Collaboration in logistics, especially the joint provision & use of resources
- Topics related to online trade/e-commerce and customer touchpoints against the background of logistical problems
-

The chair of Prof. Haasis can deal with topics on maritime economy, logistics, transport, distributed production as well as financial supply chain management, supply chain finance or financial chain management. For further information, please refer to the contents on the respective chair pages.

How is the work evaluated?

The submitted thesis is subject to a technical (70%) and formal (30%) evaluation. The evaluation criteria of a subject-specific evaluation refer to (1) the processing of the literature, (2) the technical processing, (3) the applied methodology and (4) the quality of the results. The formal evaluation includes (1) linguistic presentation and (2) documentation of the work.