

Procedure for Master Thesis

Chair Heinz Zimmermann, *Theory of Finance*

The general procedure for writing a master thesis is as follows:

- First, make sure that you are really *interested* in financial topics, in particular financial markets. Most master theses at our Chair are *empirical*, so you need a basic understanding in econometrics, statistical packages, and financial data handling. But you can also choose theoretical or historical topics.
- Second, make sure that you fulfill the *prerequisites* (see Website). I am also flexible to substitute courses depending on the topic covered in the thesis.
- The broad field of topics should be selected by the student. The first criteria should be your *personal interest* and what you may have read on the topic. I have a list of possible topics, but this should not be your first guideline.
- If you are interested in writing a thesis at my Chair, write me an *email* and indicate the fields of your interest or possible topics you are interested in. This can be rather broad.
- I will respond (capacity, interest, etc.), eventually give you some advice, and make an *appointment*.
- In our meeting, we try to break your field(s) of interest down to one or more possible *specifications* suitable for a master thesis. We also discuss methodological and data issues.

- Typically, one month after the first meeting, the *topic* should be specified. If the topic is empirical, you start searching for the data and checking other prerequisites (available codes, contacts etc.)
- The official *registration* of the topic (Registration Studiendekanat, please print out the required form, fill your personnel details in, attach a photo) is done as soon as the planned work seems feasible.
- A rough *plan* of the thesis and *first results* are typically discussed after 3-4 weeks from the registration.
- You can arrange meetings with my assistants or myself if you meet unexpected problems, or need input or comments. But basically, it is an independent piece of work without formal supervision.
- *Formal issues*: Take a published paper in a good Finance Journal for checking the formal standards. Make sure that the tables and figures are self-explanatory. Length of the thesis: Like an extended paper (30-50 pages, without appendices), but there are no fixed requirements. The thesis can be in German or English.

For further questions, please contact:

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or an assistant