



Master Theses Chair of International and Development Politics

The Chair of International and Development Politics will supervise Master's Theses focusing on subjects within the range of the research fields of the Chair. A good knowledge in the field of empirical economic research as well as in development economics / international economics is required.

You have to contact the members of the Chair well in advance in order to thoroughly prepare your chosen topic. You may contact Prof. Dreher directly or one of his team members who are listed below with indication of their main fields of research (page 2). Choose a topic for your thesis that can be treated within the requirements for Master's Theses (maximum (!) 60 pages without annex).

First of all make sure to thoroughly read the requirements given by the examination regulations for your program.

It is wise to search and read relevant literature well in advance, both in depth about your chosen topic and also about suitable research theories and methods. It takes much more time than expected to find, read, and understand relevant quality literature. A genuine literature review is very useful for designing a good project plan and is helpful during the whole thesis work process.

During the whole thesis work process, please pay attention to the following:

- Elaborate your main idea in a comprehensible way
- Express yourself in a clear and simple way using stepwise comprehensible argumentation
- Find facts and figures to maintain your theories
- Make autonomous statements, showing your in-depth knowledge
- Give a concluding own judgment and analysis.

Make use of office hours to discuss your basic conceptual framework, your approach to the topic and eventually occurring problems during your thesis work.

Don't forget to submit your Master's Thesis in **three printed copies and one electronic copy (CD in PDF-format)** with the **affidavit signed** by you to the examination office (Prüfungsamt) (see Information Sheet of the Examination Office (Merkblatt des Prüfungsamtes))!

Please do not forget to send one copy of your thesis to your supervisor at our Chair (as Word or PDF document) as well as for empirical theses the data set used and your do-files.

Please find the Formal Guideline for Master Theses on page 3, as well as helpful information on how to find relevant quality literature (page 4).

Supervisors and their research fields

Supervisor	Research Fields*
Annika Kaiser Bergheimer Str. 58, room 01.023 Tel.: 06221 54 38 54 Email: annika.kaiser@awi.uni-heidelberg.de	Development economics; Public health; Big data applications in the Social Science
Jingke Pan Bergheimer Str. 58, room 01.019b Tel.: 06221 54 31 72 Email: jingke.pan@awi.uni-heidelberg.de	Development Economics; Political Economics; Aid; Violence and Conflict
Zain Chaudhry Bergheimer Str. 58, room 01.019b Tel.: 06221 54 31 72 Email: zain.chaudhry@awi.uni-heidelberg.de	Development economics: public policy design and evaluation (corruption, education, healthcare, taxation); law and economics; state capacity; social norms
Robin Möllerherm Bergheimer Str. 58, room 01.021 Tel.: 06221 54 38 55 Email: robin.moellerherm@awi.uni-heidelberg.de	Development Economics; Economic History; Political Economy; Machine Learning
Johannes Matzat Bergheimer Str. 58, room 01.022 Tel.: 06221 54 37 39 Email: johannes.matzat@awi.uni-heidelberg.de	Development economics, political economy, applied spatial data analysis, aid effectiveness

*If your project idea does not match any of the given research fields, and you think nevertheless that your project idea might match the interests of our Chair, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Dreher in order to discuss your idea with him.

Formal Guideline for Master Theses

Language

The thesis has to be written in German or English.

Editing

You may use any word processing software that you feel comfortable with. Preferentially make use of LaTeX in case you decide to use a lot of formulas in your paper.

Style

- Font Size: 12 pt
- Line Spread: 1.5 pt
- Alignment: justified
- Margin (right, left, upper and lower margin, each): 2.5 cm

Length

The Master's Thesis should not exceed 60 pages excluding cover, table of content, table of figures, list of tables, tables, figures, references and appendix.

Organization

- Cover (include name, student number, title)
- Table of Contents: Number headings in the table of contents and the text identically.
- Table of Figures: List all figures (if any) with number and heading.
- List of Tables: List all tables with number and heading.
- (Table of Symbols: List all symbols and variables (if any) with their definitions.)
- Content: The introduction leads to and defines the subject, the body deals with the subject and the summary sums up the results in a critical manner. Number content, table of contents, table of figures, the list of tables, and the table of symbols. Reduce the number of footnotes to a minimum. Abbreviations have to be explained. Number only important equations that you refer to. Within the text argue in economic terms and not with variables. Orthography, grammar, and style are taken into account. Refrain from excessive bulleting and numbering.
- References
- (Appendix)

Quotations, References and Plagiarism

Quotations: use Harvard style, i.e. quote within the text and not in footnotes (e.g. "...as has been shown by Sturm (2006)...").

References: all studies that you have quoted in the text have to appear in the reference list. Anything that you have only read, but that is not quoted in the text, must NOT appear in the list of references. There are no restrictions on the reference style. However, consistency is required.

Plagiarism: any text parts (of more than two words) or ideas that are not strictly your own have to be marked. That means that the text has to be phrased in a way that makes unambiguously clear which parts are your own thoughts and which parts repeat ideas from other persons. This includes citing the author of literature overviews additionally to the sources he or she summarized. In case you do not stick to these standards of academic writing, you are responsible for intellectual property theft, i.e. plagiarism. By signing the

affidavit you obligate yourself to use good academic writing standards that prevent plagiarism. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your paper, i.e. you fail, and possibly have to face further disciplinary measures by Heidelberg University. Don't even think about copy/pasting your paper from the internet. Each paper will be tested in that respect.

Please find below a choice of possible links to more extensive information on good academic writing standards:

In English:

- <http://www.awi.uni-heidelberg.de/study/lehrrmaterialien/Schlüsselkompetenzen/SLK%20Foliensatz%20Wissenschaftliches%20Schreiben.pdf>
- Especially p. 30-34:
<http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/writingeconomics.pdf>

In German:

- <http://www.arbeitschreiben.de/>
- <https://www.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/studium/sb/Leitfaden.pdf>
- Especially p. 4-5 on plagiarism:
https://www.uni-oldenburg.de/fileadmin/user_upload/germanistik/download/Leitfaden_wiss_Schreiben_WJ_final.pdf

Finding Literature

The references that you get from us are only a starting point (and we will not provide these articles). You are supposed to do your own literature research. The first step in the search for relevant literature is to check the reference lists of the literature that we gave you. Good sources for economic literature, among others, are:

- <http://ideas.repec.org>
- <http://www.jstor.org>
- Business Source Premier and EconLit (über die Webseite der UB Heidelberg)
- <http://www.nber.org>
- <http://www.cepr.org>

A rule of thumb is that the list of references should have about as many entries as there are pages in the seminar paper, e.g. 30 pages, 25-35 references. Be prepared to read about the double amount of papers that finally make it into the list of references. Wikipedia is NOT a scientific source.

Deadlines

Make sure that you hand in your thesis on time at the examination office (Prüfungsamt). If you miss the deadline, the rules are strict and you will not pass the Master Thesis.