

Your thesis at the Chair of Public Economics

General information for Bachelor's and Master's theses

Aim of this information document

We are delighted that you are interested in writing your thesis at our chair. If you are interested in economic topics in the fields of taxation, education, health or labor economics, then you have come to the right place! We are also happy to supervise theses in more or less any field of applied microeconomics. To get an overview of the Chair's topics, you are welcome to browse our website and find out about the Chair's publications and projects.

The following information is intended to give you an initial overview of the registration, organization and procedure of a thesis at our chair. All further information on formal criteria will be communicated to you once you have decided to write your Bachelor's or Master's thesis with us. Please read this document carefully. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Important things first

Prof. Strohmaier is on a research sabbatical in the winter term 2024 / 25. Therefore, no theses will be supervised at the chair in this semester.

If you are interested in writing a thesis in the summer term 2025, we cordially invite you to a kick-off meeting at the end of March (via Zoom). In this meeting, you will receive all the important information as well as the organizational details for the summer term 2025. To receive the exact date and the Zoom link, please send a short email with the subject "Kick-Off Meeting Thesis" to the respective contact person (see below). In return, you will receive an email with the exact details of the meeting. You will also have the opportunity to ask your questions at the kick-off meeting.

Important: the kick-off meeting is non-binding, i.e. it is purely for your information. However, if you are interested, you should definitely attend the meeting, as important organizational information (registration, topic selection, submission) will only be communicated at this meeting.

Contact

Bachelor thesis: Kai Miele, M.Sc. (kai.miele@ibes.uni-due.de)

Master thesis: Madhurima Chandra, M.Sc. (madhurima.chandra@uni-due.de)

Step 1 - Making contact and finding a topic

When can I start writing a thesis?

How many credits you need to register your thesis is stated in your examination regulations. As a general rule, you should start thinking about your thesis at the end of your studies. Ideally: one semester before you want to write your thesis!

What do I have to do if I want to write my thesis at your chair?

At our chair, you write your thesis in a structured process, i.e. there is a clear time structure that applies to all students. If you are interested in writing a thesis at our chair, you should contact us by email by the beginning of March (for the summer semester) or the beginning of September (for the winter semester) at the latest. In return, you will receive an email with all the information for a non-binding kick-off meeting (online), which usually takes place in the last week of March or September.

How far in advance should I register if I would like to write my thesis at your department?

You should contact us by email by the end of the previous semester at the latest so that we can invite you to the kick-off meeting at the end of March / end of September.

What is discussed in the kick-off meeting?

In the kick-off meeting, we will explain to you how you can successfully write a thesis with us. This includes information on finding a topic, registration, outline presentation and submission of the thesis. At this meeting you will also have the opportunity to ask us any questions you may have. The meeting is not yet a binding registration, but you should definitely attend if you would like to write your thesis with us.

Will I be assigned a topic for my thesis?

No, no topics are assigned at our chair. The first challenge will be to prepare 3 short topic proposals, from which we will then select the topic that we think is most suitable for a thesis. In the kick-off meeting, however, we will provide you with assistance and show you how you can best approach the topic search.

Can I also write a pure literature thesis?

Yes, you can also write a literature thesis with us. In the kick-off meeting, we will explain to you in more detail the different forms of theses that are possible at our chair.

Step 2 - Thesis registration at the examination office

How and where do I register my thesis?

You must register your thesis at the examination office by filling out the examination office's registration form (see their website) digitally and then sending it to us (to your supervisor and

Prof. Strohmaier) by email. We will then also sign the document digitally and send it to back to the examination office. After successful registration, you will receive a letter directly from the examination office stating the submission date.

When does the official registration for the thesis take place?

Thesis registration at our chair for the summer semester takes place around the middle/end of April. For the winter semester, registration takes place around the middle/end of October.

Where can I find the form to register my thesis?

All information regarding registration and submission of the thesis is provided by the examinations office. You can also find the current registration form on the webiste of the examination office.

Do I have to look for a second supervisor myself?

You are welcome to request a second supervisor yourself if you wish. If you leave the field blank, we will enter a second reviwer who fits the topic well.

Step 3 - Writing the thesis

How much time do I have to write the thesis?

This information can be found in your examination regulations. Usually, your will have 12 weeks for Bachelor's theses and 26 weeks for Master's theses.

In which language can I write my thesis?

You can write your thesis in German or English. Usually, Master's theses at our chair are written in English due to the English literature.

What is the approximate scope of a thesis?

If you have decided to write your thesis with us at the chair, we will provide you with a password for a Moodle course containing all the information on the formal structure requirements. We will provide you with the specific number of characters that represent the scope of the thesis. As a rule, it is approx. 25-30 pages for a Bachelor's thesis and approx. 45-50 pages for a Master's thesis.

What about the formal requirements for my thesis?

If you have decided to write your thesis with us at the chair, we will provide you with a password for a Moodle course. There you will find an information document containing detailed information on the scope, citation method, appearance, structure and design of a thesis. You are free to decide on all other formal design elements that are not specifically explained in this document (even without asking us).

Can I also send my supervisor an interim version of my thesis for a first review?

Please refrain from sending us interim results during the writing process. For reasons of fairness, we cannot “read” parts of your work in advance. However, you can of course contact us at any time if you have any questions. There will also be a joint workshop where all students will have the opportunity to present their outline and receive detailed feedback. For Master’s theses, there will also be regular meetings in the group to present interim results.

Step 4 - Submission and correction**How many copies do I have to hand in where and in what form?**

Please refer to the information provided by the relevant examination office. We have nothing to do formally with the submission of the thesis. We would only ask that you send us a short email with your thesis (as a PDF) on the day of submission to the examinations office so that we can already view the thesis and know that you have submitted it. If you carry out your own empirical analysis, you should also make your data and scripts available to us.

What is a declaration of authorship?

With a declaration of authorship, you guarantee us that you have written your thesis independently. You confirm that you have written the thesis alone and without further help. You must sign and attach this declaration at the end of your thesis. You can find a sample of this declaration in the Moodle course or on the website of the examination office.

When can I expect my grade?

The assessment procedure by the examiners should generally be completed 6 weeks after the submission of the thesis. Please note, however, that it may well take up to 8 weeks for the assessment to be completed. If you have not received any feedback after 8 weeks, you are welcome to contact us by email.

Can you provide me with a certificate of completion before the final assessment?

No, unfortunately this is no longer possible and has been prohibited by the examination office.

Can I view the assessments of my thesis?

Of course you can! You can formally view the reviews via the Examinations Office. Please contact the relevant examination office directly.