

## ELEC-E0210 Master's Thesis Process, spring 2020

### Part 1 - Assignment 2

#### Instructions

This second assignment consists of two parts: a homework assignment *Research Plan 2*, and peer reviews *Written Feedback 2*. To pass the assignment, you must complete both parts in the following order:

- In the first phase, you complete and submit your Research Plan 2 - DL 23.3.2020
- In the second phase, you read and comment the research plan of two peers - DL 30.03.2020

Instructions for the first and second phase are also available in the assignment activity tool in MyCourses.

#### Instructions for Research Plan 2

- Your task is **to develop your research plan further**. Further development can mean any of the following:
  - more thoroughly developed research objective
  - more thorough methodology description
  - more complete literature survey
  - depending on the status of your thesis, you may also include initial versions of further sections of your thesis (e.g., description of your experiment set-up or other implementation of methodology, preliminary results)
- Review the preliminary thesis schedule you wrote in your initial research plan. Specify and modify the plan for the remaining thesis work on a weekly or monthly basis, if needed. Include the updated schedule in the document.
- The document should be about 4-5 pages long.
  - Write logical, readable and coherent text in full sentences. No bullet point lists.
  - Include your name, study programme, major and the agreed topic of your thesis.
- Convert the document into pdf format.
- Before submitting your document, upload it into the Turnitin submission box and go through the originality report. Correct the text if needed.
- After viewing the originality report, submit the document into the “Second homework assignment” submission box by 23.3.2020. **NOTE! No late submissions.**

Note - in any substance related questions you must work with the research plan in co-operation with your supervisor (and/or advisor, when applicable). During this course, we concentrate only on the general format and the thesis process, not on the substance questions of a particular topic.

#### Instructions for Written Feedback 2 (Peer evaluation)

Aalto University aims at creating opportunities for students to practice critical thinking and argumentation. One important feature of scientific communication skills is the ability to critically assess the research work of your peers and to communicate those assessments in a justified and constructive manner. The purpose of this peer-review phase is to practice scientific communication and at the same time to receive useful

feedback on your own work in order to help you further with your thesis work.

- Starting from 24.3.2020, read the submission of your two peers. You will read the submissions of the same students as in the first round.
- Comment on both submissions in their comment boxes. While reading, consider and then comment on (at least) the following points:
  - Has the research problem been successfully developed further? Has it “matured” from the previous version? What is good, what is still unclear?
  - Has the proposed research methodology been successfully explained and justified further? Is the methodology clearly presented?
  - Has the review/description of relevant research been elaborated sufficiently?
  - Is the text readable?
  - Is the level of technical writing appropriate (including use of references)?
  - Justify your assessment on each point and try to give constructive comments. Remember that the aim is to help your peers improve the readability, quality and depth of the substance of their thesis. Think of what kind of comments you would benefit from regarding your own submission.
- Submit your comments by 30.3.2020 at 14.00.

After you receive your peers’ comments on the second version of your research plan, consider what you could still improve. There is the option of agreeing on another group meeting to discuss each others’ comments, but this is not compulsory. The Research Plan 2 is the starting point for the second part of the course, lead by the Language Center of Aalto, where you expand your research plan to the Introduction Chapter of your actual Master’s thesis. Please check the instructions for the second part of the course in MyCourses.