

Master's programme	
Student name / number	
Working title of the thesis	
Submitted date	

The length of the thesis plan is suggested to be no more than 5-6 pages. There is no specific reference style (e.g. Harvard, Chicago, APA) recommended in the department; thus, discuss it with your supervisor. The following structure for thesis plan is a suggestion and it can be adopted according to the thesis. In case your supervisor provides you with research plan instructions different from the following, act according to the instructions of your supervisor, and, of course, MA Thesis Guide.

Abstract (one paragraph)

Introduction

- *The background of a certain topic area* (What is the context? Who are your audiences?)
- *An issue/problem from the area and its significance* (Why are you doing this? Why shall others care about it?)
- *Research questions and objectives* (What do you propose to explore or investigate?)

Literature Review / References

- *Overview of the references* (What previous work there is on the subject? How will your work expand our understanding about your topic, considering the existing research and projects?)
- *Preliminary conceptual framework* (Which concepts and streams of research can you use to structure your research problem?)
- *Limitations* (What issues will be excluded and for which reasons?)

Methods (for 'design' or/and 'research', see *Design Research* course materials)

- *Overall approach and rationale* (How will you conduct your exploration or investigation? Why do you want to do it and in that way? Is it a common way to conduct your research or are you experimenting with methods?)
- *Methods for sampling, design, data gathering and data analysis* (How will you choose what to study? What and how do you plan to design? What kind of data are you collecting? How will you gather the data? How will you analyze/interpret the data? Notice that both "method" and "data" can mean nearly anything from exploring through design, prototyping or benchmarking existing cases to conducting interviews and collecting statistics for scenario building.)
- *Ethical considerations*. Some topics are more sensitive than others. Any topic involving for example children, minorities, non-human subjects, politics, religion, violence or other potentially sensitive elements requires planning ethically sound conducting of research. (Is there any chance of risking validity, reliability, trustworthiness, and transparency? How do you plan to prevent them?)

Preliminary Outline for the Thesis (i.e. Table of Contents)

Tentative Workplan

- *The progress of your work as concrete milestones*. Progress should be guided by your research questions, interrupted with moments of reflection where you can revise and plan your future steps. Preliminary conclusions and findings should be mentioned and, for example, possible iterations. Good idea is to schedule moment for "refining research question" and another for "checking and revising scope of research". This way you'll have a

blueprint of your exploration/investigation as a process. When planning your progress and milestones, benefit from thesis structure. (e.g. Which chapters or parts of thesis will you work on in each month or week?)

- *Other activities involved* (e.g. What courses/activities will you join during the process?)
- *Potential employee/collaborator* (How do you plan to identify and work with them?)
- *Funding* (If needed, how will you finance to produce your work?)
- *Plan for getting feedback from supervisor and advisor(s)*
- *Submission deadlines for the draft versions to your supervisor*
- *Final deadline for the thesis* (i.e. the submission deadline where you aim at).
- *Potential date for thesis presentation and submitting the maturity essay* (times for these will be approved by the supervisor later)

References