



Entrepreneurship & Society

Helps to prepare for the Master's Thesis

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Example of Thesis Outline

1 INTRODUCTION (5 pages)

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Research objectives/questions
- 1.3 Structure of the thesis

2 LITERATURE REVIEW (20 pages)

- 2.1 Part 1
- 2.2 Part 2
- 2.3 Summary / framework

3 DATA AND METHODS (5 pages)

- 3.1 Data
- 3.2 Methods
- 3.3 Ethics and quality of the study

4 FINDINGS (25 pages)

5 DISCUSSION (5 pages)

6 CONCLUSIONS (10 pages)

- 6.1 Research summary
- 6.2 Practical implications
- 6.3 Limitations of the study
- 6.4 Suggestions for further research

	Practical thesis “Tools for solving a problem”	Research thesis “Knowledge for understanding a problem”
Introduction	Identifying an important practical problem	Identifying an important theoretical puzzle or practical problem
Literature review	What do we know about the solutions to the problem in prior literature?	What are the key concepts / theories that help us to study the problem?
Data and methods	Explain your procedures transparently	...and utilize known research methods
Findings	Your findings on the solutions to the problem	Your findings on the elements of the puzzle/problem
Discussion	What (new) do your findings teach us about the solutions to the problem?	What (new) do your findings add to our understanding of the puzzle/problem?
Conclusions	How can the study’s findings be utilized in the future?	How can the study’s findings be utilized in the future?
References	May include non-academic consultancy and policy reports	Mostly articles from high quality journals

How can Entrepreneurship & Society course help you with your thesis?

- If you don't yet have a specific question in mind, you can **focus on learning about a topic**
- Review literature around the topic to identify why it is interesting, what kind of themes/questions have been studied and how, what kind of different perspectives and nuances there are

→ The course helps you to find your own interests, formulate a focused question and develop your research plan

- If you already have a more specific question in mind, you can **zoom into your own research question**
- Review literature on your question to identify how your idea fits and adds to the prior research and what kind of findings or concepts you can use to study the question empirically

→ The course helps you to draft parts of the literature review for your thesis and develop your research plan

Skills needed in thesis work

After completing the thesis process, you should feel comfortable **extracting information from extant research in an analytical and critical manner**, and **apply it independently to solving research problems**. You should also be able to apply at least one method to generate new research information, and be able to analyse and interpret this information. Furthermore, you should feel comfortable in **planning and managing a large project** that you carry out yourself.

Preparation for the thesis in EIM programme



Thesis kick off in EIM programme

You will be assigned to a thesis supervisor *after the thesis seminar kick-off session*; by then, you have the opportunity to send a **short description of your general thesis themes of interest and/or more concrete thesis ideas**.

This document should very briefly explain what your intended research theme is/themes are and why you have decided to pursue one or more particular topics. If you have an idea of the theory or the method that you intend to use, do make a note of them, but it is not necessary to have made these choices before the first supervision. The purpose of the preliminary description of your ideas is to serve as a foundation for the specification of your topic in the first supervision.

More info

General instructions on writing and handing in the Master's thesis:

<https://into.aalto.fi/display/eneim/Completing+your+master%27s+thesis>

Master's thesis completed in Aalto:

<http://epub.lib.aalto.fi/en/ethesis/>