

Photo: Tuomas Uusheimo

Good morning!

Dr. Heidi Paavilainen, heidi.paavilainen@aalto.fi, Department of Design
Dr. Namkyu Chun, namkyu.chun@aalto.fi, Department of Design

A' Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Participation tips



Use Zoom's chat for questions and comments and don't hesitate to engage in discussions



Mute your microphone if you are not speaking



Open your camera, if possible



Raise hand if you want to ask out loud

!!!!!!NOTE!!!!!!

- Make sure your real name is shown in Zoom.
- Your attendance is tracked by Zoom Report.

Components of a thesis plan



Our programme

Date	Day 1 Sep 6, Mon	Day 2 Sep 7, Tue	Day 3 Sep 8, Wed	Day 4 Sep 9, Thu	Day 5 Sep 10, Fri
Type	Zoom session: Positioning & Working	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom session: Planning 1 & Writing	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom teaching: Experiences & Planning 2
Content	Basics	Assignments	Techniques	Assignments	Actions

QUIZ





Answer the following:

1. How many credits is the thesis? How much time does it mean?
2. What is the length of a thesis text?
3. What is the length and what are the qualities of a good thesis plan?
4. What are the components of a good thesis plan?
5. What is the name of the director of your MA Programme? And the study coordinator?
6. What is the name of the university? And school?
7. What is the name of your MA programme?
8. What is the use of thesis plan in the thesis process?
9. What happens with the thesis plan after this TPO week?



1. How many credits is the thesis? How much time it means?

- 30 credits
- About 810 hours
- About 22 weeks of 5 x 8h working weeks = 108 days
- About 3 full courses
- About half a year = 4,5 months

2. What is the length of a thesis text?

- 25-70 pages; about 50 000 - 140 000 characters
 - Lots of peer reviewed literature and discussion + small production part or no production
 - Not much peer reviewed literature and discussion + demanding production



3. What is the length and what are the qualities of a good, convincing thesis plan?

- 5-8 pages
- Sharp
- Clear
- Interesting
- On topic relevant to design
- Well-justified



4. What are the components of a good thesis plan?

Part 1: Identifiers

- Working title
- Language of the text
- Your name and programme
- Your supervisor > if unsure, leave empty or suggest someone
- Your advisor(s) > leave empty, suggest someone(s), or describe which expertise they should have
- Extent of thesis > 30cr



4. What are the components of a good thesis plan?

Part 2: Substance

- Academic and artistic research goals
- Description of production part if there is one > Materials? Methods?
- Methodological choices > how are the academic and artistic research goals achieved?
- Typically the longest part of the plan

On Friday we'll talk about framing and research design!



Literature Review

- Show that you understand and are able to explain and justify the key concepts and methods in your thesis.
- You need literature to make your arguments clear and to challenge your thinking.
- Your argument also contributes to a certain design practice or discussion, which you do by connecting with and referring to the relevant literature.

Pro tip: Most peer-reviewed journals and conferences are listed in [Julkaisufoorumi](#) > "JUFO Portal" (also in English)



JUFO classification: example: design publications

- Level 3 (highest ranking): **Design Issues, Design Studies, Journal of Design History**
 - Level 2 (mid-level ranking): **Design Journal, International Journal of Design**
 - Level 1 (low-level ranking): e.g. **Design and Culture, Journal of Design Research, Design Methods**
-
- **Level 1** includes peer-reviewed publication channels that are specialised in the publication of scientific research outcomes and have an editorial board of experts of the discipline. The majority of all publication channels are classified as Level 1 which is the basic level.
 - **The Levels 2 and 3** are awarded to a limited number of academic journals, conferences and book publishers of the highest level and impact as judged by the Expert Panels.
 - Publication channels that have been evaluated but do not meet all of the Level 1 criteria are marked as category 0.



Types of Literature

- **Theoretical and Methodological Literature (5–10 sources)**
Defining the key concepts and theories related to the topic, positioning the thesis, justifying the methods
- **Background Literature (10–20 sources)**
Opening up the discussion and previous work on the topic, describing the design case, real-life context, history of the topic etc.
- **Design Examples**
Illustrating the different design aspects related to the topic, benchmarking, providing insights and inspiration



Academic Writing

- Different writing styles ('soft' / 'hard' science)
- Different citation styles (Harvard, APA, Chicago ...)
- Different voices to use while writing ("I argue..." , "It can be argued..." , "Chun (2018) argues..." ...)

>>> *Key is being consistent*

>>> *Check out services available at the Language Centre*



4. What are the components of a good thesis plan?

Part 3: Practicalities

- Financing plan if needed
- Ethical considerations if needed
- Possible risks which could make your work difficult or impossible
- Schedule / action plan



5. What's the name of the Director of your MA programme? And study coordinator?

- **CoID:** Severi Uusitalo Meri Arnala (meri.arnala@aalto.fi) > Sanna Väisänen (sanna.vaisanen@aalto.fi)
- **CoDe:** Maarit Mäkelä Mervi Palva (mervi.palva@aalto.fi)
- **CS:** Mikko Jalas Naoko Nagakawa (naoko.nagakawa@aalto.fi)
- **FaCT:** Maarit Salolainen Heidi Tukiainen (heidi.tukiainen@aalto.fi)
- **IDBM:** Anna Valtonen Naoko Nagakawa (naoko.nagakawa@aalto.fi)

Pro tip: Find your programme's thesis pages in Into:

Into.aalto.fi > Master programmes > [programme name] > Completing your master's thesis



6. What's the name of the university? And school?

- Aalto University / Aalto-yliopisto / Aalto-universitet
- School of Arts, Design and Architecture / Taiteiden ja suunnittelun korkeakoulu / Höskolan för konst, design och arkitektur

7. What's the name of your MA programme?

- Master's Programme in **Collaborative and Industrial Design**
- Master's Programme in **Contemporary Design**
- Master's Programme in **Creative Sustainability**
- Master's Programme in **Fashion, Clothing and Textile Design**
- Master's Programme in **International Design Business Management**



8. What's the use of thesis plan in the thesis process?

- Good plan is a “knowledge creation platform” and helps you to think through your ideas without commitments; a playground for ideas, thinking and learning, where you can change your mind until you are happy with the plan. Very much like a design concept before prototype (first draft) is built.
- Excellent training for application for PhD-studies or any funding.
- Thesis plan is to be followed, but plan also evolves during the process as your understanding of your thesis and your options evolves.
- Good plan is a miniature draft of the thinking in your thesis and a blueprint for actions.
- Plan is also an agreement with your advisor how you two are going to work.
- What plan is NOT: it is not a mechanical listing of options that can be part of some random thesis.



Plan helps to avoid problems

- **Poor research question.** Good research question is clearly expressed and has a motivation. Poor question is unclear, or changes throughout the plan (or thesis).
- **No awareness of context.** Good plan is aware of the field of studies. There are links to literature, practice, history. Limitations and boundaries are clearly communicated and justified. In poor plan there's random set of notes, or no context and limitations at all.
- **Poor choice of research methods.** In good plan research question is targeted with sensible set of methods that produce enough data to reach satisfying level of confidence. Unethical methods, studying wrong people, emphasis on personal experience, and lack of motivations for decisions are indicators of poor planning.



Ethics

- Authorship and plagiarism
- Health and safety
- Confidentiality and privacy

>>> Useful tool: Turnitin

>>> Check the research ethics guidelines from the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity on MyCourses.

Thesis guide lists good resources.



9. What happens with the thesis plan after the Thesis Plan Orientation?

- Writing of the plan. This will happen in two steps: "Thesis Proposal" and, based on that, "Thesis Plan".
- You can email at any point the Director of your MA Programme (DoP) and explain briefly your topic.
- When the plan is ready, submit it to your MA programme (most likely in MyCourses).
- You'll get invitation to the Programme's thesis plan presentation session or to meet with DoP.
- In the session, present you plan and fill Thesis form (find the form in Into)
- Supervisor approves your topic and advisor(s) is appointed to you. Date of the meeting is marked to your thesis form, with an expiration date of topic one year forward.
- Programme coordinator informs your advisor(s) about the practicalities and requirements.
- Follow your thesis plan with a support by advisor(s) and Programme's Thesis seminar's.
- Follow Programme's instructions how, when and where to submit your two first 10 cr parts of thesis.

Podcast Series with Director of Your Study Programme

Check Assignment in MyCourses



Supervisor & Advisor

- Understand their roles
 - Supervisor: Administrative and managerial role >>> *Appointed by your program.* (“Valvoja” in Finnish)
 - Advisor: Academic or/and practical support for your thesis >>> *Can to be found by you.* (“Ohjaaja” in Finnish)
 - See division of roles in Thesis guide appendix
- How to use them strategically
 - Format and schedule related issues: Supervisor
 - Content related issues: Advisor

>> *Know your supervisor / advisor(s) / coordinator*



Thesis Topic Proposal Presentation Schedule

Program	Submission Due	Presentation
CoID*	As per supervisor	Mini seminars organized by supervisors, mid Oct.
CoDe	October 1, 2021	Oct 25 / Nov 1 / 11 / 15 / 22, 09:15-12:00
CS	September 20, 2021	September 24, 8:30-12:00
FaCT	October 8, 2021	October 13, 14:00-16:00
IDBM	October 11, 2021	October 15, 9:00-12:00

**CoID doesn't have a programme-wise presentation. Students can select supervisor from Sep 15.*

Please contact your study coordinator / director of your study programme to know more.



Q&A

Q: How much budget do we have?

Q: What are the biggest benefits of writing the thesis in English instead of Finnish?

Q: Do I have to find proofreading and editing service by myself?

Q: One evaluation criteria to get a 5 is that “the topic is demanding”. How do I know if my topic meets the criteria?

Q: How to define the “extent of the possible production component”?

Q: If we look at previous theses. Is there a way to know how they were graded?

Q: When and how are the Programme seminars?



Q&A (about the entire process)

Q: If I can't finish my thesis within one year, what will happen? Do I have to pay more for this?

Q: I'm a student from Tongji University, and IDBM is my double degree. What is the maximum time my topic will be valid for?

Q: It is said that I am given a total of max. 10 hours of face-to-face advice by the external advisor(s). Does the 10 hours include his knowledge of me and my paper?

Q: What does it mean for the supervisor to “give permission to submit the thesis for examination”? (p. 5, Master's Thesis Guide) When does this happen – after the supervisor reads the written thesis, or after the oral presentation?



Continues

Q: Is any/how much emphasis (is) placed on the graphic design and the layout of the thesis during evaluation?

Q: An extensive use of Finnish and international sources is mentioned as a requisite for a 5. Is there a general guideline for using Finnish and/or international sources (the choice of topic also of course affects this)? Do examiners value them differently at Aalto University?

**Afternoon:
On academic language
Dr. Eeva Berglund, Dept of Design**



Our programme

Date	Day 1 Sep 6, Mon	Day 2 Sep 7, Tue	Day 3 Sep 8, Wed	Day 4 Sep 9, Thu	Day 5 Sep 10, Fri
Type	Zoom session: Positioning & Working	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom session: Planning 1 & Writing	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom session: Experiences & Planning 2
Content	Basics	Assignments	Techniques	Assignments	Actions

Thank you! Questions?



Requirements to Pass

- **Submission** of 4 pre-assignments in MyCourses (by Fri 27.8.)
 - **Participation** in 6 contact teaching sessions this week (morning/afternoon of Mon, Wed & Fri)
 - **Doing** 4 assignments in MyCourses:
 - Submit a finished D-S-M-G-R exercise (By the end of Wednesday 8.9.)
 - **Submit a finished Fourfold exercise (By the end of Thursday 9.9.)**
 - Submit a summary of key points after watching a video lecture on Thesis Plan by Turkka Keinonen and listening a podcast by Director of your study program (By the end of Friday 10.9.)
 - Submit a finished Action Plan, including Sociogram (by the end of Wednesday 15.9.)
- *If needed, submit missing, failed or revised assignments (by the end of Friday 17.9.)*