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| --- | --- |
| **Student name** |  |
| **Working title of the thesis** |  |
| **Submitted date** |  |

**GENERAL NOTES**

* *The length of the thesis plan is suggested to be no more than 5 pages (excluding the references).*
* *Referencing should be done throughout the document (other than literature review) according to the APA reference style.*
* *Please write the thesis plan according to the following structure. Under each section, several items are presented as compulsory contents. Each item has guiding questions and their answers are considered as the expected contents.*
* *No need to copy the 'General Notes' for the thesis plan.*
* *Contact Namkyu if needed (*[*namkyu.chun@aalto.fi*](mailto:namkyu.chun@aalto.fi)*)*

**THESIS PLAN STRUCTURE**

**ABSTRACT**

**(Max one paragraph. Please formulate one or two sentences in relation to each of the items below.)**

* *Practical / societal significance of thesis topic* (What is happening in the world that makes your topic interesting and relevant?)
* *Positioning of your work in academic contexts* (What is said or done earlier in the literature on your topic and how does your thesis relate to what has been said or done earlier?)
* *Research questions or objectives* (What do you propose to explore or investigate?)
* *Methods and approaches* (What are you planning to do and how? What are the boundaries of your project?)
* *Expected outcomes* (What do you aim to produce / develop as an outcome of your project? Why are they beneficial?)

**INTRODUCTION**

**(Please formulate at least one paragraph in relation to each of the items below.)**

* *Practical / societal significance of thesis topic* (What is happening in the world that makes your topic interesting and relevant? Why are you doing this? Why shall others care about it? Who is the main audience for your work?)
* *Positioning of your work in academic contexts* (What streams of literature are your thesis based on?)
* *Main question and sub question(s)* or *objectives for your thesis* (What do you propose to explore or investigate? What do you want to learn and inquire through your thesis? What could others potentially learn through your thesis? What is the main research question for your thesis and what are sub research questions to specify the main research question?)
* *Expected outcomes* (What do you aim to produce / develop as outcome(s) of your project? What do you expect them to look like? Why are they beneficial? E.g. In which context are they going to be used?)

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**(Please formulate at least one paragraph in relation to each of the items below.)**

* *Introduction to the literature stream(s)* (What literature have you selected to look at and why?)
* *Key literature [Each literature per paragraph]* (What are the main ideas in the literature? What are the core concepts for your thesis and how are they discussed in literature?)
* *Positioning of your thesis* (How does your work relate to prior literature / studies? Are you aiming to extend / exemplify / experiment / examine / etc.? And why is this approach interesting / relevant?)

**METHODS [FOR RESEARCH. ‘DESIGN METHODS’ IF APPLICABLE]**

**(Please formulate at least one paragraph in relation to each of the items below.)**

* *Introduction to methods and approaches for the thesis* (How do you plan to do your thesis? Why do you want to do it in that way?)
* *Rationale for thesis methods / approaches* (Why do you intend to employ the methods / approaches? Is it a common way to study a similar topic? If so, why?)
* *Plans for gathering materials / data of your project* (What types of materials / data will you collect or generate to address your research question(s)? How will you gather the materials / data? Notice that both “method” and “materials / data” can mean nearly anything from exploring through design, prototyping, or benchmarking existing cases to conducting interviews and collecting statistics for scenario building.)
* *Plans for analyzing and interpreting materials / data of your project* (How will you analyze / interpret the materials / data? How will you make sense of your analysis / interpretation?)
* *Collaborator(s) [if applicable]* (Are you working with any internal / external stakeholders for your project? If so, why and how do you plan to work with them?)
* *Boundaries* (What issues will be excluded and for which reasons?)
* *Ethical considerations* (Does your topic / method address any sensitive subjects? If so, how do you plan to engage with these? How do you deal with copyrighted materials?)

**TENTATIVE WORKPLAN**

**(Please see BA Thesis and Seminar's timetable to align your work.)**

* *Work process* (What are main activities and deadlines for your thesis work? How can you balance with external workload from your studies / work / etc.?)
* *Supportive figure* [e.g. GANTT chart] (How can you use a figure, including a table and a chart, to communicate the work process effectively?)

**REFERENCES**

**(In APA style. See the official guidelines:** [**LINK**](https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines)**)**