

National Research University Higher School of Economics

Banking Institute

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HSE Banking Institute
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**Guidelines for
Preparation, Assessment, Defense and Publication of
Theses
Written by Students of the
'Financial Analyst' Master's Programme of the
HSE Banking Institute**

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. These Guidelines have been prepared in line with the Regulations on Term Papers and Theses Prepared by Bachelor's, Specialist and Master's Students of National Research University Higher School of Economics (hereafter, the Regulations), approved by the HSE Academic Council.

1.2. These Guidelines are designed for 2-nd year students enrolled in 'Financial Analyst' Master's programme (Finance and Credit, 38.04.08), offered by the HSE Banking Institute.

1.3. Pursuant to the Banking Institute's basic curricula, 2nd-year Master's students are expected to prepare and defend a thesis (hereafter, the Thesis).

1.4. These Guidelines apply only to the preparation, assessment, defence and publication of student theses; they shall not be applicable to other papers written by students in the course of study.

1.5. Theses shall be prepared and submitted either in Russian or in English.

If a student wishes to prepare their thesis in English, they must submit a relevant request approved by the academic supervisor, clearly stating why the thesis should be prepared in English.

1.6. No special requirements shall be set for preparation of theses in English.

1.7. The thesis shall be subject to review and compulsory public defense.

1.8. Students must upload their theses to the LMS system so that their papers can be checked for plagiarism. Student papers shall be checked as per the Regulations on Using the Antiplagiat System at National Research University Higher School of Economics (pursuant to HSE directive No. 31.1-04/295 dated April 06, 2010). If confirmed instances of plagiarism are uncovered in a thesis, the student shall face disciplinary action in accordance with the Procedures for Applying Disciplinary Measures for the Violation of Academic Standards for Student Papers at HSE (an Annex to HSE Internal Regulations).

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO THESES

A thesis is an independent research project prepared by students as a part of their training. All students must prepare a thesis to complete their final state certification (FSC).

A Master's thesis shall be prepared during the student's internship as a final graduation paper based on respective research outcomes. The thesis is an independent and coherent paper, characterized by its integrity, and clear connections between its goals, objectives, methodology, structure and completeness of the research outcomes.

The thesis should contain a set of research outcomes and scientific assumptions, which are put forward by the author for the public defense. The papers can include theoretical and empirical research outcomes, as well as solutions for applied tasks.

In their theses, students must demonstrate acquired skills and abilities, based on in-depth knowledge and skills, as well as systemic and professional competencies, including their ability to:

- independently solve professional tasks keeping up with modern standards;
- provide a professional presentation of special information;

- give scientific reasons for and defend their point of view;
- master critical thinking skills in order to evaluate and summarize theoretical concepts;
- gain independent analytical work skills;
- use up-to-date research methods;
- gain public discussion skills and relevant competencies for defending scientific ideas, proposals and recommendations.

The methodological support in the course of thesis preparation will be provided at research seminars (RS) offered during the second year of study, which is integral to the degree programme. The RS supervisor can invite academic supervisors of students to take part in the research seminar.

Theses shall be prepared as per the Stages and Deadlines for the Preparation and Defense of Theses Written by the Master's Students of the 'Financial Analyst' Programme at HSE Banking Institute (Annex 1).

3. REQUIREMENTS TO THE THESES FORMATS

The thesis shall be prepared as an academic paper, which means that a study is conducted with the aim of gaining new insights into the structure, properties and patterns of the phenomenon under examination. A student thesis is an individual project (rather than a group project).

4. SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF THE THESIS TOPIC

- 4.1 The Academic Office of the Banking Institute shall advise students of the provisional list of topics for theses, specifying names of potential academic supervisors for each topic.
- 4.2 Students shall be entitled to choose one of the proposed topics.
- 4.3 A student may suggest another thesis topic for approval of the academic supervisor and/or potential academic supervisor, by submitting a personal request, with a substantiated explanation of his/her choice of topic.
- 4.4 Requests submitted by students for approval of an additional thesis topic and/or academic supervisor shall be considered at the meeting which is held jointly by the academic supervisor of the 'Financial Analyst' Master's programme and supervisors of the research seminar of the Banking Institute no later than by November 15 of the ongoing academic year.
- 4.5 Based on the meeting results, the academic supervisor and research seminar supervisors shall be entitled either to reject the proposed topic with a substantiated explanation provided, or rephrase the topic upon the student's consent.
- 4.6 The student must submit a request stating the selected topic of the thesis with the academic supervisor's approval (Annex 2) no later than by December 01 of the ongoing academic year.
- 4.7 The topic of the thesis shall be provided in Russian and in English.

- 4.8 Student requests regarding the selected thesis topic shall be considered at the meeting of the Expert and Methodology Council of the Banking Institute no later than by December 07 of the ongoing academic year.
- 4.9 The topic and the academic supervisor shall be assigned to the student, pursuant to the relevant directive. The directive shall be issued no later than by December 15 of the ongoing academic year. The directive shall state the topic of the thesis in Russian and in English, the name of academic supervisor and deadlines for submitting the final version of the thesis.
- 4.10 Students are considered to have an academic failure, if they have not selected a topic of their thesis within the timeframe specified in p. 4.6. hereof. Such academic failure must be eliminated in accordance with the established procedure and within the time limits determined by Russian legislation and the University's bylaws.

5. CHANGING THE THESIS TOPIC AND REPLACING THE ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

- 5.1. The thesis topic can be changed or rephrased, and the academic supervisor can be replaced on the basis of the student's request submitted to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute.
- 5.2. Requests, which must be accompanied by a written explanation for changing a topic of the thesis and approved by the academic supervisor (Annex 3), as well as requests to replace the academic supervisor (Annex 4), which must be approved by both academic supervisors, shall be submitted to the academic office of the Banking Institute no later than by March 31.
- 5.3. The academic supervisor shall be entitled to submit a request to release him/her from academic supervision of a thesis with an explanation provided, addressed to the academic supervisor of the 'Financial Analyst' Master's programme no later than by March 31.
- 5.4. Requests submitted by students (for changing the topic of the thesis and/or replacing the academic supervisor) and faculty members (wishing to cancel their academic supervision) shall be considered by the academic supervisor no later than by April 07 of the ongoing academic year. The academic supervisor of the Programme can reject the student's request to change the supervisor, with an explanation provided.
- 5.5. In case of conflicts owing to rejected requests for replacement of the academic supervisor or withdrawal from academic supervision, the decision shall be made at the meeting of the Expert and Methodology Council of the Banking Institute.
- 5.6. The topic of the thesis is changed, and the academic supervisor is replaced, as per the relevant directive.

6. THESIS SUPERVISION

The academic supervisor appointed by the official directive shall be responsible for direct supervision of thesis preparation.

Thesis supervisors are appointed from among the University's employees holding an academic degree (Doctor of Sciences, PhD or Candidate of Sciences), or professionals with at least 3 years of experience, including part-time employees of the University.

Thesis supervisors may also be appointed from among employees of external organizations with at least 3 years of professional experience in the given field or executive experience and/or with an academic degree to certify their professional competencies in the relevant industry or field of study, provided that a major part of the student's thesis preparation is completed at such supervisor's place of employment. Monitoring of the progress and quality of the thesis preparation for the defence shall be assumed by the academic supervisor and/or monitor, and by the Academic Office of the Banking Institute (with regard to deadlines for submission of all necessary documents and completion of all stages of the thesis preparation).

The thesis supervisor's duties include:

- Advising students on shaping the final topic of their thesis, drafting the thesis outline, and preparation schedule, drawing up the first draft and selecting scholarly literature and factual data;
- Helping students choose appropriate research or project methodology; collaborate with students to define provisional stages of the topic exploration;
- Monitoring the progress and quality of thesis preparation against the outline and the preparation schedule;
- Notifying the Academic Office of the Banking Institute if students are behind the schedule;
- Advising students in regards to the contents of their theses;
- Assessing the quality of theses in line with the established requirements (in particular, prepare a review);
- Approving thesis information that students intend to publish on the HSE corporate portal (website) and other public electronic platforms.

Thesis supervisors are entitled to:

- Select a suitable mode of interaction with students, in particular, agree on the thesis preparation schedule and the frequency of face-to-face meetings or other communications;
- Request that students prepare and present a brief summary of the received recommendations and further steps in thesis preparation after each meeting;
- Request that students pay close attention to the received recommendations and come to meetings well-prepared;
- Take into account the compliance with the preparation schedule and deadlines for submission of the first draft and final draft when grading student theses;
- Take part in the SEB proceedings at the thesis defence.

For students whose supervisors are not employed at the University, monitors must be appointed from among the University staff implementing this degree programme. Monitors oversee the thesis preparation and check if the content and formatting of the thesis meet the established requirements.

HSE academic staff or employees of external organizations whose professional experience and/or academic interests match the thesis topic may be appointed as advisers to students preparing their theses. Advisers are supposed to provide consultations to students; they hold an advisory vote on thesis development.

For interdisciplinary papers, up to two advisers may be appointed.

Advisers must:

- Advise students on selecting appropriate research or project methodology, scholarly literature and factual data;
- Advise students on the content of their theses.

Appointment of the advisor(s) is initiated by the academic supervisor and authorised by the Programme Academic Supervisor, following a written request, drawn up by the student and signed by the supervisor. Appointment of monitors and advisers is initiated by the Programme Academic Supervisor and enacted by the official directive no later than February 01 of the ongoing academic year.

If the academic supervisor is not employed at the University, the thesis monitor appointed from among the University staff shall assume the following duties:

- Regularly check the progress of the thesis preparation against the outline and the preparation schedule (jointly with the academic supervisor);
- Notify the academic office of the Banking Institute if students are behind the schedule.

7. REVIEWING THE THESIS

Theses shall be subject to review.

A reviewer (second reader) is appointed from among the University's academic staff. A reviewer may also be an employee of another university or an organisation whose professional focus matches the topic of the thesis.

A reviewer is proposed by the Programme Academic Supervisor and appointed by the official directive no later than two calendar months before the scheduled defence. The directive must state the student's full name, thesis topic and information about the reviewer (full name, academic degree, academic title, employer, position).

The reviewer prepares an opinion to be handed over to:

- the student: a written thesis review within the timeframe established in Annex 1 hereto;

- the representative of the Academic Office of the Banking Institute: a scanned copy of the thesis review can be submitted by email, provided that the sender can be clearly identified as the reviewer, within the timeframe established in Annex 1 hereto.

8. STAGES OF THESIS PREPARATION

Familiarizing students with requirements for the preparation and formatting of theses.

Before selecting materials (regulatory and source documents, as well as research and study materials) on the topic of research, students must prepare a bibliographical list. The bibliographical list may be drawn up based on:

- The list of mandatory and recommended literature in the relevant field;
- Bibliography lists in course books and monographs;
- Subject-specific library catalogues;
- Electronic databases of HSE research publications;
- Academic supervisor's recommendations.

The bibliographical list must ensure comprehensive coverage of the research topic.

When analysing materials on the research subject, students must choose the most well-reasoned and substantiated notes, extracts and quotations, and organize them by key points of the research project. This work must result in the development of a logical system of data on the research subject. Based on this data, the structure of research project, as well as its contents and thesis length shall be further refined. Compiling a work schedule for thesis preparation (Annex 5). When drawing up a work schedule for thesis preparation, the student should have a clear understanding of the structure of his/her future thesis. The student shall draft a work schedule, which must be approved by the academic supervisor. The work schedule includes:

- Developing the research programme and submitting a thesis outline for the academic supervisor's approval;
- Conducting the research, writing a thesis on the basis of research outcomes and submitting the first draft of the thesis to the academic supervisor;
- Holding the preliminary defense of the thesis at the research seminar;
- Revising and finalizing the final version of the thesis;
- Uploading the thesis to the Antiplagiat system;
- Thesis review;
- Submitting the final version of the thesis to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute;
- Thesis defense.

8.1.1. Developing the research programme and submitting a thesis outline for the academic supervisor's approval: at this stage, the student must formulate a working hypothesis/conceptual framework of the thesis, put forth the issue which the thesis is to address, and devise the core structure of the thesis.

Students may prepare an outline of the thesis in the course of a research seminar or face-to-face discussions with the supervisor (or potential supervisor).

The supervisor shall review the outline of the thesis and mark it as "Approved" or "Declined". This grade shall be entered into the student performance record. Declined outlines must be revised and resubmitted to the supervisor (specific deadline for resubmission and grading is determined by the academic supervisor, but it cannot be later than December 25). If a student has no approved outline by the given deadline, the academic supervisor must notify the Academic Office of the Banking Institute accordingly by corporate email.

8.1.2. Conducting research, writing a thesis on the basis of research outcomes and submitting the first draft of the thesis to the academic supervisor. The first draft of the thesis shall be submitted to the supervisor for review; the text must then be revised accordingly if needed. The first draft of the thesis shall be submitted in accordance with the schedule approved by the academic supervisor but no later than two calendar months prior to the scheduled date of the thesis defense in the ongoing academic year. The supervisor must notify the Academic Office via corporate email of any students who have failed to submit the first draft of their thesis on time.

8.1.3. The preliminary thesis defense at a research seminar to make sure that the student is ready for defense. Preliminary defense is a compulsory final assessment for research seminar course and an interim assessment in terms of thesis preparation. The student's academic supervisor, the supervisor of the research seminar and other faculty members of the Banking Institute must attend the preliminary defense.

8.1.4. Finalizing and preparing the final version of the thesis. At this stage, the student shall revise their thesis as may be needed. At the end of this stage, the student shall submit the final version of the thesis and abstract to the academic supervisor who shall prepare a review no later than one calendar month prior to the scheduled date of defense in the ongoing academic year.

In the review, the academic supervisor must provide a detailed explanation of the grade assigned to the student, conduct an informed analysis of the main provisions of the thesis, assess the author's independent opinion and ability to use scientific research methods, conclusions and recommendations, reliability of the gained results, as well as their novelty and practical relevance.

The academic supervisor of the thesis shall submit a review to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute within one calendar week upon receipt of the final version of the thesis.

8.1.5. Uploading the thesis to the Antiplagiat system. All students must upload electronic copies (not scans) of the final versions of their theses, which have been submitted for review to the academic supervisor) to the special LMS module for term papers and theses, which will automatically forward them to the Antiplagiat system.

No material or technical amendments can be made in the paper after uploading the paper to the Antiplagiat system.

In case plagiarism in the student's thesis is detected and proved, the student may be subject to disciplinary measures, stipulated in the Procedures for Applying Disciplinary Measures for the Violation of Academic Standards for Student Papers (Annex 7 to the Internal Regulations at National Research University Higher School of Economics, as revised and approved by the HSE Academic Council, Minutes No. 36 dated April 27, 2012).

8.1.6. Review of the thesis. Upon approval of the academic supervisor, a responsible representative of the Academic Office of the Banking Institute shall submit the final version of the thesis uploaded by the student to the LMS system for subsequent review.

The reviewer (second reader) shall prepare a review to be handed over to:

- the student: a written thesis review shall be delivered within the timeframe established in Annex 1 hereto;
- the representative of the Academic Office of the Banking Institute: the review can be sent as a scanned copy by email from an email address, which can be clearly identified as belonging to the reviewer, within the timeframe established in Annex 1 hereto.

If an original signed review has submitted to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute only, the latter must communicate the content of the review to the student at least 3 (three) calendar days before the defence, so that the student has an opportunity to prepare answers to the reviewer's comments.

8.1.7. Submitting the final version of the thesis to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute. The final version of the thesis shall be submitted by the student to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute in hardcopy (one copy) and in the electronic version (preferably on a CD±R/RW or DVD±R/RW). Paper copies of the thesis should be bound (using a thermal binding machine; no plastic and metal clips are allowed). The student shall also submit a thesis abstract (Annex 6), reviews signed by the academic supervisor and the reviewer, a certificate or a registration sheet from the Antiplagiat system within the timeframe fixed by the related directive (p. 4.9. hereof).

8.1.8. The thesis defense (its organizational and defense procedure) shall be set forth by the Regulations for the Final State Certification of Students of the Bachelor's, Specialist and Master's Level at National Research University Higher School of Economics.

If due to valid reasons (including individual curriculum, or individual work schedule, approved in advance by the academic supervisor, or in case of student's internship), the due date of the thesis submission and/or defense must be postponed, the student shall submit a relevant request by April 15, specifying the relevant reasons (Annex 7). This request must be approved by the academic supervisor. Any requests submitted after April 15 shall not be accepted.

If the student has failed to submit the thesis with the supervisor's opinion by the deadline (as per p. 4.9. hereof, or by the date which is fixed individually as per p. 8.5 hereof), a statement to this effect (Annex

8) shall be issued by the responsible secretary of the State Certification Board and signed by the academic supervisor of the degree programme.

The student who has failed to duly submit their thesis with the supervisor's review shall not be admitted to the thesis defense. Students, who were not admitted to the thesis defence, shall be subject to dismissal from the University for failure at the final state certification.

The thesis appeal procedure shall be set forth by the Regulations for the Final State Certification of Students of the Bachelor's, Specialist and Master's Level at National Research University Higher School of Economics.

9. REQUIREMENTS TO THE STRUCTURE, CONTENTS, AND SIZE OF THESES

The thesis shall be comprised of:

9.1.1 The Front page:

A thesis must include a front page (Annex 9).

9.1.2 Contents (page 1):

The contents section shall directly follow the front page. Page numbers shall be specified opposite each item on the right margin of the page (Annex 10).

The contents of the thesis shall correspond to the field of study of the degree programme.

9.1.3 Introduction (page 2-3):

The Introduction should include reasons for choosing the topic, show its relevance, define the goal and specific objectives of the paper, which must be solved in order to attain the goal. References to methods and techniques used for analysing the materials and empirical data can also be provided. Research object and subject should be specified, as well as the existing groundwork in the given topic and scientific novelty of research. In addition, the Introduction should feature an overview and analysis of the research sources, as well as the structure of the paper and the possible limitations of the study.

The Introduction must include the following details:

- *The rationale for the selected research topic*, including its relevance, scientific novelty and/or practical relevance. The Introduction reveals the essence of the problem and gives reasons for the immediate solution of the given problem. The existing groundwork around the given topic should be described (including the conceptual nature and theoretical and methodological grounds for existing approaches, as well as any gaps in the study of the problem). Depending on the specific features and goals of the paper, the existing groundwork around the topic, the overview and analysis of scientific literature can become a part of the Introduction or a separate chapter in the thesis.

The scientific novelty refers to new scientific results, new solutions for a given problem, which are anticipated upon completion of the research. The novelty can be expressed as a new object or subject of the research (which is considered for the first time), the involvement of new materials in the research, a new formulation of already known problems and tasks, a new solution technique or a new application

of already known solution or method, new outcomes of their practical application, the development of original models, etc. The practical relevance of a research project, including theoretical ones, shall be defined by the potential for the application of related outcomes (specifying the field of application and subsequent evaluation).

- Research goals and objectives;

Solving the scientific problem and gaining new knowledge in regards to the subject and object of research represent the goal of research. Authors are not recommended to formulate the goal as “to study/do research on...”, thus replacing the goal with the process for its achievement. A working hypothesis (i.e. an assumption with respect to possible research outcomes, which should be either confirmed or rejected) can be formulated along with the goal. The objectives of a research project depend on the goal (hypothesis) and are expressed as consecutive steps (ways and means) which should be taken for solving the problem.

- Research methodology and techniques:

In this section the student should substantiate the choice of any particular concept, theory, principles, or approaches; describe the terminological paradigm of research; define and give characteristics of any specific methods for attaining the objectives and processing outcomes, as well as state the theoretical and practical relevance of outcomes attained, etc. Depending on the type of research (methodological, empirical), these aspects may be covered in a separate chapter(s) of the thesis, or represent an independent subject of research.

- Object and subject of research:

The object of research means a process, phenomenon or knowledge which underlies a given situation and can be studied and/or transformed by the researcher. The subject of the research is a part of its object, i.e. the aspects and properties, which fall in the direct focus of the given research project. The subject of the research project is often the same as its topic or very similar to it.

- Overview and analysis of sources:

The sources of research project refer to all materials, which describe the information in regards to the subject of research and are used in the course of research. The sources may include publications, which can be found in official documents, projects, research literature, reference books, bibliographical and statistical publications, dissertations, scientific research reports, etc. Electronic databases and information search engines on the Internet¹ can be mentioned as a special type of sources.

The paper should describe the classification and brief characteristics of sources of each type, their availability, level of in-depth coverage and representative properties. The sources should be verified, and the choice of methods used to deal with each type of resources should be explained.

- Rationale for thesis structure:

¹ Depending on the research field, sources can be created by researchers in the course of their work (for example, survey data).

The thesis structure (including sections, chapters, and availability of annexes) must correspond to research objectives.

- *Research limitations:*

Assumptions and limitations, which define the scope of research in general (with regard to time, scale and initial data), should be specified.

9.1.4 The main part (45-55 pages):

The main part of the thesis is comprised of several logically completed sections (chapters), which can be further subdivided into paragraphs and points. Each section (chapter) is dedicated to solving one of the objectives formulated in the Introduction and provides conclusions drawn by the author as a result of the completed study. Each chapter serves as the basis for the following chapter. A thesis must include at least two chapters. Titles of the chapters should be concise and precisely reflect the contents. The title of a chapter cannot be the same as the title of the thesis. A general outline of the chapter should be provided at the beginning of each chapter, featuring brief contents of each paragraph.

There is no fixed sequence of theoretical, methodological and empirical section in the main part of the thesis, which will depend on the type and logic of a given research project.

The closing part analyses key findings gained personally by the author in the course of study (as compared with results of other authors), provides recommendations and proposals developed by the author, relevant experience and prospects for their practical application.

9.1.5 Conclusion (2 - 3 pages):

The following details shall be provided in the thesis Conclusion:

- specific conclusions based on the research findings, which should correspond to goals and objectives formulated in the Introduction and represent the solution of such objectives;
- key scientific outcomes obtained by the author as per the research goal (solution of the research problem, acquisition/application of new knowledge in regards to the subject and object), the confirmation or rejection of the working hypothesis;
- possible prospects for using obtained new scientific knowledge/practical results and fields for future studies/application and development of obtained results.

9.1.6 Bibliography:

The Bibliography is comprised of a list of bibliographical sources and materials, which must fully correspond to the references provided in the text and include only those sources which have been actually used during the thesis preparation and have been mentioned in the text by the author.

The list of materials and sources is an important component of the completed research paper. The bibliography shows the author's independent creative work, erudition, competencies and academic expertise.

9.1.7 The scope of Annexes (if any) is not limited:

Annexes may be comprised of different charts, tables, or diagrams, if they take up over one page, and any other materials, if it seems more advisable to attach them rather than include in the main part.

Introduction, main body, bibliography and annexes must all begin from a new page.

As a research paper, a thesis must be compiled in line with the academic style, which is characterized by its logical completeness, integrity and coherence, as well as well-grounded assumptions and evaluations. Its key stylistic features are semantic accuracy (unambiguous and concise statements) and avoidance of repetition and excessive details.

The wording of a thesis should be based on the scientific paradigm, special terminology and concepts introduced without additional explanations. The author of the thesis should stick to the academic style of presentation and use the terminology accepted in the relevant field, as well as notations, applicable abbreviations and symbols.

Furthermore, authors are not recommended to use redundant terminology and other attributes of the “scientific style” in their paper. They should be used as far as really necessary for giving arguments and solving the set objectives.

9.4. The size of the thesis (not including the bibliography and annexes) must be at least 3 printer’s sheets (units of 40,000 ens)², approximately 120,000 ens, including spaces. It is recommended that the size of the thesis should not exceed 4 units of 40,000 ens.

10. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FORMATTING OF THESES

10.1. Technical requirements.

The thesis shall be printed on a standard A4 paper. Four margins: 35 mm on the left, at least 10 mm on the right, at least 20 mm upper and bottom margins; around 2000 ens per page.

The text must be prepared using Microsoft Word 7.0 or a more advanced version for Windows or similar programmes, which will allow the Academic Office of the Banking Institute view the submitted file (.doc, .docx, .pdf format). Font – Times New Roman. 14 font size. 1.5 interval. Margins: upper – 2 cm; bottom – 2.5 cm; left – 3 cm; right – 1.5 cm. All items, tables, charts and graphs shall be inserted in the text, if an item does not exceed one page. In the latter case, such items shall be featured in annexes. Paragraph indent – 1.25 cm. Width alignment.

Extracts from other publications quoted in the thesis must be accompanied by a relevant source reference.

Footnotes shall be provided using Times New Roman – 10 font size; width alignment; interval - 1.

References and bibliography shall be formatted as per requirements set forth in GOST P 7.0.5-2008 (“Bibliography. General Rules and Requirements”)

² 40,000 ens is the unit of measurement of the author’s materials (‘publisher’s sheet’). One unit is equal to 40,000 ens (including spaces, punctuation marks, and figures). A unit of 40,000 ens is equivalent to approximately 22 pages of typewritten text (1 page of 1800 ens) or 23 pages of A4 format, printed with a 1.5 interval, using 12 font size.

Different formats permitted by regulatory standards cannot be used all at the same time. It is recommended to use the system of footnotes with consecutive numbering. New chapters should begin on a new page; the same rule applies to other main parts of theses (i.e. the introduction, the conclusion, bibliography, annexes, etc.).

Different type fonts can be used for drawing attention to specific terms, formulas, or theorems: semi-bold, italics, underlined.

Pages with diagrams and annexes should be consecutively numbered. The front page is the first page which is left unnumbered. Arabic numerals shall be used for page numbering. The page number is placed in the centre at the bottom of the page, without a dot. Illustrations and tables printed on A3 sheets shall be considered as one page. New chapters begin on a new page; the same rule applies to other main parts of theses (i.e. the introduction, the conclusion, bibliography, annexes, etc.).

10.2. Alphabetic abbreviations spelling rules

In addition to the generally acceptable alphabetic abbreviations, authors of theses may use their own abbreviations, denoting certain concepts in the relevant fields of knowledge. When mentioned for the first time, such abbreviations should be indicated in parentheses following their full name. After that, they are used in the text as abbreviations without special comments.

10.3. Rules for using formulas and symbols

Formulas are inserted either as separate lines in the centre of the page or inside the lines. It is recommended to place formulas which are short, simple, unnumbered and have no independent value in the text. Key formulas, as well as long and cumbersome ones, which contain summation, multiplication, differentiation, and integration marks, shall be placed in separate lines. To save the space, several short formulas of a similar type can be given in one line, and not in a column. Students are advised to use computer formula editors (such as Microsoft Equation or its analogues).

Key formulas referenced in the text of the thesis should be numbered. Sequential numbers of formulas should be fixed in Arabic numerals in parentheses on the right margin of the page.

10.4. Tables, figures and graphs formatting rules

Tables can be used as illustrative materials and for convenient comparison of different parameters. Tables are a form of text or document presentation, which characterize different items by a range of parameters. The source data provided in analytical tables shall be presented in the annexes to the thesis, while calculations of relevant parameters are given in the text. A table should take up to one page. If an analytical table exceeds one page, it should be given in an annex. In certain cases, tables can be borrowed from other publications.

References to all tables must be given in the text. A reference to the table which confirms or illustrates a particular statement of the term paper shall be provided in the text, where such a statement is mentioned. The reference shall be supplied with the table number (for example, Table 1). Conclusions, rather than a general description of the table contents, should be given in the text which provides analysis

or comments on the table. Tables must be placed immediately after the text where they are mentioned for the first time, or on the next page.

Consecutive numbering of tables shall be applied throughout the text of the thesis. Sequential number of the table should be given in the upper left corner below the title. All tables must have titles. The title must reflect its essence and be accurate and concise. Titles are placed in the centre above the table. For each table, the units of measurement and the period of time covered should be clearly specified. If units of measurements used in the table are common for all numerical data of the table, the unit of measurement shall be specified in the title of the table.

Illustrations (designs, charts, figures, diagrams, photographs, drawings) shall be placed below the related text, where they are mentioned for the first time, or on the next page, if they do not fit below. References to all illustrations must be provided (for example, Fig. 1).

Illustrations, except for illustrations in annexes, should have consecutive numbering in the Arabic numerals throughout the text. Illustrations must have titles; sequential numbers and titles should be given below. The title of a drawing can be preceded by an explanation, if needed.

Axis of coordinates shall be marked respectively in Latin characters. If necessary, explanatory notes can be provided along the axis of coordinates.

10.5. Quotation rules

References shall be given, if the author uses quotations or any borrowings from different sources. The bibliographical list shall be provided at the end of the term paper. If no reference is provided, and confirmed instances of plagiarism are uncovered in the thesis, the student may face disciplinary action in accordance with the Procedures for Applying Disciplinary Measures for the Violation of Academic Standards for Student Papers at HSE (Annex to HSE Internal Regulations).

Quotation rules foresee the use of introductory phrases, direct or indirect speech, quotation marks, footnotes and references. In most cases, the quote must be preceded by an introductory phrase, and the author's comment must follow afterwards. The quote must be intertwined in the context. The borrowed text must be provided in quotation marks and accompanied with a reference, or it can be rendered or rephrased without quotation marks, but the reference must still be provided. The quotation which supports the author's arguments must not exceed 50 words. More extensive quotations or rendering must be justified by specific goals, for example, detailed analysis of a particular fragment of the borrowed text.

10.6. Bibliography formatting rules

The list of sources and materials should include statistical and other sources, which were used in the course of the thesis preparation (Annex 11). It is comprised of: scientific and educational literature (except textbooks/course books and teaching guides), periodicals (articles in journals and newspapers), regulatory documents, statistical collections, as well as other reporting materials and electronic sources. The list of sources and other materials shall be presented as follows:

- Sources (regulatory and archives documents, statistical databases) - if any;
- Monographs;
- Articles in scientific journals;
- Electronic sources (which include documents available in electronic format only).

Bibliography items should be arranged as follows: sources are provided in alphabetical order; sources and materials in Russian are given at the beginning of the list, followed by sources and materials in foreign languages.

All papers included in the list are given in alphabetical order (by the author's name) with full details of the publication provided. If no author's name is available (in case the article was published in a collection of research papers or in a collective monograph), the paper shall be put on the list by the first letter in its title.

No strict rules exist as to the number of scientific sources. As a rule, a thesis bibliography should include 40-60 sources.

The following details of a book shall be provided in the bibliography, as per GOST P 7.0.5.-2008: the author's name and initials, title of the book, place of publication, name of the publisher and the number of pages.

Titles of publications, issue number (volume), year, and pages should be indicated for articles published in periodicals.

10.7. Interview quotation and references formatting rules

Quotations should be given in italics, if they are comparatively short (up to two lines), or as a separate paragraph with small indents on both sides, if a quotation takes up to three or four lines. Longer quotations should be provided only in case you intend to perform a narrative analysis of an interview fragment.

After closing quotation marks at the end of the quotation, insert parentheses, and provide the details of the source of information as follows: name, sex, age, year and place of data collection, who collected the data (if not yourself), or who is the owner of the archives (if it's not yours), and other details relating to the study – for example, professional status. Close parentheses and insert a dot.

Alternatively, the number of the interview or the source of information can be provided in parentheses at the end of the quotation.

10.8. Annexes formatting rules

An annex is an optional part that concludes the paper. Annexes are provided as a supplement and usually used for reference, but may be necessary in order to disclose the topic in more detail and support the arguments included in the thesis. Materials exceeding 1 page can be also included in annexes. The contents of annexes can vary, including copies of original documents, extracts from reports, individual provisions of rules and guidelines, etc. Annexes can take the form of texts, copies of official documents (scans), tables, diagrams, maps, etc.

Each annex should start from a new page with the word "Annex" given in the upper right corner, and have a title. If there is more than one annex in the paper, they should be numbered, accordingly. Annexes should retain continuous numbering of pages originating from the main text. The main body of the text should correlate with annexes via links that are used in parentheses, e.g. (See Annex 1). Titles of annexes should be specified in the table of contents as separate entries.

The bibliography and sources are not considered an annex.

11. CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE THESIS ASSESSMENT

11.1. Requirements to reviews drawn up by academic supervisors.

The academic supervisor shall assess the thesis (Annex 12), using criteria which are established hereby and take into account the degree of attainment of key competencies:

No.	Assessment criteria		Scores
1	Formal statement of the research problem, original and accurate wording of the research problem		0-10
	SC-5	Ability to make managerial decisions, evaluate possible consequences and bear responsibility	
	PC -1	Ability to summarize and critically evaluate outcomes obtained by Russian and international researchers; identify promising fields for future research, draw up a programme of one's own research	
	PC -2	Ability to collect, process, analyze and put into the system financial and economic information on the given research topic, choose methods and techniques for solving tasks	
	PC -6	Ability to prove the theoretical and practical relevance of the chosen research topic	
	PC -37	Ability to define and retranslate common goals in a professional and social context	
	PC -39	Ability to generate brand new ideas and products; creativity and proactive approach	
2	Correspondence between research methods and research goals and objectives		0-10
	SC-2	Ability to propose concepts and models, invent and test techniques and tools of professional activities	
	SC-3	Ability to independently master new research methods and change one's focus of research and professional activities	
	PC -4	Ability to design economic models of studied processes, phenomena and objects, relating to a given professional field	

	PC -40	Ability to create, describe and control the fulfilment of technological requirements and standards in a professional context	
3	The scope and relevance of research publications Quality of selected sources and description of information used; overview and analysis of research sources		0-10
	SC-7	Ability to arrange and manage multilateral (cross-cultural) communication	
	SC-8	Ability to engage in professional activities, including research, on an international level	
	PC -1	Ability to summarize and critically evaluate outcomes obtained by Russian and international researchers; identify promising fields for future research, draw up a programme of one's own research	
	PC -2	Ability to collect, process, analyse and put into the system financial and economic information on the topic of research, choose methods and techniques for solving tasks	
	PC -7	Ability to independently perform research activities in line with the developed programme, come up with original ideas with respect to research directions and methods, substantiate one's own contribution to the development of a given research field	
	PC - 8	Ability to present the research findings to the academic community (by making a presentation or preparing an article)	
	PC -40	Ability to independently develop tasks and project solutions in view of uncertainty/risk factors, draw up relevant methodological and regulatory documents, as well as proposals and action lists for implementing the developed projects and programmes	
6	Ability to explore the topic, full presentation of materials, coherence of different chapters		0-10
	SC-6	Ability to analyse, verify and assess the completeness of information in a professional context, make up and synthesize any lacking details	
	PC -3	Ability to engage in mathematic modelling of processes and objects on the basis of standard packages designed for automated project development and research	
	PC -5	Ability to design and organise surveys, describe the study, prepare data for compiling surveys, reports and scientific publications, prepare reports, information overviews, and publications based on the research results	
	PC -37	Ability to define and retranslate common goals in a professional and social context	

	PC -40	Ability to create, describe and control the fulfilment of technological requirements and standards in a professional context	
7	Novelty, relevance, practical application and accuracy of research outcomes obtained by the author		0-10
	SC-2	Ability to propose concepts and models, invent and test techniques and tools in a professional context	
	PC -8	Ability to present one's research findings (by making a presentation or preparing an article)	
	PC -39	Ability to generate brand new ideas and products; creativity and proactive approach	
8	Language and Style of the Thesis Logic, consistent presentation, clear and accurate wording, text integrity and clear evidence provided for all assumptions and evaluations, unambiguous and concise statements, ability to avoid repetition and excessive details		0-10
	SC-2	Ability to propose concepts and models, invent and test techniques and tools in a professional context	
	SC-5	Ability to make managerial decisions, evaluate possible consequences and bear responsibility	
	SC-6	Ability to analyse, verify and assess the completeness of information in a professional context, make up and synthesize any lacking details	
	SC-7	Ability to arrange and manage multilateral (cross-cultural) communication	
	SC-8	Ability to engage in professional activities, including research, on an international level	
	PC-4	Ability to design economic models of studied processes, phenomena and objects, relating to a given professional field	
	PC-37	Ability to define and retranslate common goals in a professional and social context	
9	Compliance with requirements for the thesis formatting: Accurate text formatting, including references, quotations, diagrams and tables		0-10
	PC-8	Ability to present one's research findings (by making a presentation or preparing an article)	
	PC-5	Ability to design and organise surveys, describe the study, prepare data for compiling surveys, reports and scientific publications, prepare reports, information overviews, and publications based on the research results	
	PC-40	Ability to create, describe and control the fulfilment of technological requirements and standards in a professional context	

10.1.2. The academic supervisor provides an opinion within 7 days upon submission of the final version of the student's thesis (including an electronic version).

10.1.3. The academic supervisor accompanies the grade with a brief comment which mentions the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis and gives recommendations for further work to be performed by the student in the course of their thesis preparation.

Requirements to the thesis review prepared by the second reader

11.1.1. The reviewer must conduct a qualified analysis of the contents and fundamental provisions of the thesis under review (Annex 13), evaluate the relevance of the chosen topic and the author's independent approach to exploring the topic (the author's own opinion). The review should include an assessment the author's ability to use modern techniques for information collection and processing, as well as grounds provided by the author in support to conclusions and recommendations, the accuracy of obtained outcomes, their novelty and practical relevance.

Gaps/weaknesses (if any) should be mentioned along with positive points of the thesis.

11.1.2. The reviewer also may provide their opinion in regards to the thesis author's competencies as set forth in the HSE educational standard (ES)³.

Criteria for thesis evaluation by the State Examination Board

11.1.3. The thesis defense, which is held in the framework of the Final State Certification at the meeting of the State Examination Board, is the final stage of the student's work on their thesis. The thesis defense for 2-nd year students of the Master's programme "Financial Analyst" of the Banking Institute shall be held in Module 4 of the ongoing academic year.

11.3.2. The thesis shall be evaluated on a 10-point grading scale (Annex 14). The results of the thesis defense shall be defined by an open voting of the SEB members as per the following formula:

$$\text{Final grade} = 0,1 * G_s + 0,1 * G_r + 0,8 * G_{seb} \text{ (arithmetic mean),}$$

where

G_s – the academic supervisor's grade assigned for the overall thesis quality and its compliance with the established requirements;

G_r – the reviewer's grade for the thesis in general, with due regard to well-grounded conclusions and recommendations, as well as novelty and practical relevance;

G_{seb} – the SEB members' grade assigned for the thesis contents and defense, including the presentation and answers to the reviewer's questions (arithmetic mean).

In case of a tie vote, the chairperson shall be entitled to a casting vote.

³ The Academic Office of the Banking Institute must notify reviewers of the HSE ES in the relevant field of study available on the degree programme's web-site, which contains the list of competencies to be obtained by the degree programme's alumni.

12. THESIS DEFENSE

12.1. Students shall be admitted to the thesis defense upon successful completion of the degree programme in the relevant field of study and submission of all thesis-related documents in due time (p. 4.9 hereof).

12.2. If the academic supervisor and/or the reviewer provides a negative opinion with respect of the thesis, the student may still submit their thesis for defense.

12.3. The thesis defense shall be held as per the established schedule of the state examinations, approved at the SEB meeting in the relevant field of study. At least 2/3 of the board members, but no less than 3 persons, constitute the quorum of the meeting. The procedure of the thesis defense is established by the Regulations for the Final State Certification at HSE.

12.4. In addition to the SEB members, the academic supervisor, advisor (if any) and the reviewer, as well as HSE faculty and students, can be invited to the thesis defense.

12.5. The defense begins with the student's report and the thesis presentation for up to 7-10 minutes. The report should begin with the statement in regards to the relevance of the chosen topic, describe the scientific problem and goals of the paper, to be logically followed by comments on the related chapters dealing with the contents of the paper. Special attention should be paid to the most important sections and interesting outcomes, the novelty of the thesis, critical comparisons and judgements. The closing part of the report is based on the text of the closing provisions of the thesis and mentions key conclusions of the thesis without repeating generalized conclusions made in the description of main chapters. Key recommendations should be summarized in the closing part as well. The student must present the main contents of the thesis without reading their notes.

12.6. Students must use technical and multi-media means in the course of their preparation to the thesis defense and while delivering their report. Students are recommended to include up to 7-10 slides in their presentation. A slide with the empirical base for the planned research must be included in the presentation.

12.7. When preparing their presentations, students are strongly recommended to make sure that the format and size of the text (diagrams, tables, etc.) on the slide are appropriate to make the contents clearly visible for the board members.

12.8. Students are recommended to refrain from using slides with long text fragments.

12.9. Large tables, which do not fit into the slide, can be provided to the board members as handouts. Interim conclusions and calculation results can also be included in the handouts, if the student doesn't have time to mention this information in their oral report, but wishes to share these details with the board members.

12.10. After the student has completed their presentation, the SEB members can ask questions, which can be directly or closely related to the topic of the thesis. The student is entitled to use their paper when answering the questions.

12.11. When the student has answered all questions, one of the SEB members reads out opinions provided by the academic supervisor and the reviewer in regards to the thesis. Alternatively, the academic supervisor and/or the reviewer can present their reviews themselves (if they are present at the meeting). After the presentation of both reviews on the thesis, the SEB members can express their opinions in regards to the presented thesis and ask any follow-up questions. After the discussion is over, the student shall be given the floor for closing remarks to answer the comments of the academic supervisor, the reviewer and the SEB members.

12.12. After the student's closing remarks, the thesis defense is deemed completed.

12.13. The board shall assign the final grade for the thesis as per p. 11.3.2.

12.14. The final grade for the student's thesis defense shall be assigned on a five-point or ten-point grading scale and fixed in the minutes of the board meeting, which is then signed by the chairperson and members of the board.

The following mechanism shall be used to transfer grades assigned on a ten-point scale to the five-point scale:

10-point scale	5-point scale
1, 2, 3	Unsatisfactory
4, 5	Satisfactory
6, 7	Good
8, 9, 10	Excellent

12.15. If the student receives an 'Unsatisfactory' grade at the thesis defense or doesn't show up at the defense for a valid reason, the defense can be attempted again pursuant to the Regulations for the Final State Certification of HSE Students.

12.16. If the student is absent at the thesis defense for no valid reason, the student shall be dismissed from the University for their failure at the final state certification.

12.17. If the student has successfully passed the final state certification, as per the minutes of the examination committees, the SEB shall make a decision to grant the student the Master's degree in the relevant field of study and issue an official degree certificate.

13. THESIS STORAGE AND PUBLICATION

13.1. After the theses defense, hardcopies of theses shall be handed over to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute, which ensures their storage for 5 (five) years, and afterwards submitted for storage to the HSE archives with a delivery certificate issued. The hardcopies of theses shall be destroyed upon expiry of the storage period.

13.2. Abstracts and full texts of theses shall be published on the HSE corporate website (portal) pursuant to relevant HSE bylaws.

Stages and Deadlines for the Preparation and Defense of Theses
Written by the Master's Students of the 'Financial Analyst' Programme at
HSE Banking Institute

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
1.	Collecting thesis topics proposed by the faculty. Uploading topics with names of academic supervisors to the LMS system and publishing topics on the degree programme's website	Academic Office of the Banking Institute	Before October 10 of the ongoing academic year
2.	Advising the academic supervisor of the degree programme about the proposed topics	Academic Office of the Banking Institute	Before October 11 of the ongoing academic year
3.	Getting the proposed topics approved by the degree programme management <i>(Within five (5) business days upon receipt of the information from the Academic Office; after the approval has been provided, the topics will be submitted to the Academic Office)</i>	Academic supervisor of the degree programme jointly with the RS supervisors	Before October 22 of the ongoing academic year
4.	Advising the faculty of the approved topics of theses <i>(Within one (7) business days upon receipt of the Academic supervisor's decision in regards to the list of recommended topics)</i>	Academic Office of the Banking Institute	Before October 30 of the ongoing academic year
5.	Further discussion of the topics followed up by drawing up the final list of topics, which are recommended to students <i>(Within three (10) working days upon receipt of a notice from the Academic Office of the</i>	Faculty / Academic supervisor/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	Before November 10 of the ongoing academic year

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
	<i>Banking Institute, the faculty can discuss reasons for why certain topics have been turned down. The Academic supervisor can reinstate certain topics after this discussion.)</i>		
6.	Publishing information in regards to the proposed topics, academic supervisors, rules and deadlines for thesis preparation on the website of the degree programme	Academic Office of the Banking Institute / Head of the Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than November 15 of the ongoing academic year
7.	Proposing new topics at the students' initiative	Students/ Faculty/ Academic supervisor of the degree programme	No later than November 22 of the ongoing academic year
8.	Discussing topics proposed by the students	Students/ Faculty/ Academic supervisor of the degree programme/ RS supervisors	No later than November 26 of the ongoing academic year
9.	Deadline for choosing the thesis topic by the student	Student	No later than December 01 of the ongoing academic year
10.	Assigning topics of theses as per the official directive and advising academic supervisors accordingly:	Academic supervisor of the degree programme jointly with the RS	
	10.1 Decision in regards to assigning topics of theses and academic supervisors <i>(Within five (5) working days after the topic has been chosen)</i>	supervisors/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than December 07 of the ongoing academic year
	10.2 Directive in regards to assigning topics of theses and academic supervisors		No later than December 15 of the

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
	(with further notification of academic supervisors of theses)		ongoing academic year
11.	<p>Submitting an outline of the student's thesis to the academic supervisor</p> <p>(including the time assigned for allowing the student to revise and re-submit the thesis outline to the academic supervisor)</p>	Student/ Academic supervisor of the degree programme /Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than December 25 of the ongoing academic year
12.	<p>Amending/clarifying the thesis topic, as well as replacing the academic supervisor, which is possible on the basis of the student's personal request, upon approval of the academic supervisor(s)</p> <p><i>(the request should be submitted no later than 2 calendar months before the deadline for submitting the final version of the thesis to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute, as per the related directive)</i></p>	Student/ Academic supervisor of the degree programme /Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than March 31 of the ongoing academic year
13.	<p>Considering requests submitted by students for amending/clarifying the thesis topic, as well as replacing the academic supervisor (followed by assigning the topic, as per the related directive)</p> <p><i>(within five (5) working days after the student's request submission)</i></p>	Academic supervisor of the degree programme jointly with the RS academic supervisors/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than April 05 of the ongoing academic year
14.	<p>Issuing the directive in regards to the thesis reviewers appointment</p> <p><i>(No later than two (2) months before the scheduled defense date)</i></p>	Academic supervisor/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than April 10 of the ongoing academic year
15.	Postponing the period for the thesis submission and/or defense	Student/ Academic supervisor/ Academic supervisor of the degree	No later than April 13 of the ongoing academic year

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
	On the basis of the student's personal request, upon the academic supervisor's approval	programme/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	
16.	Submitting the initial version of the thesis to the academic supervisor by the student	Academic supervisor/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than April 16 of the ongoing academic year
17.	Writing the thesis <i>(in the course of the academic year (by the deadline which is fixed in the directive))</i>	Student	No later than December 15 - May - 15 мая of the ongoing academic year
18.	Submitting the <u>final</u> version of the thesis to the academic supervisor by the student and getting the academic supervisor's approval for uploading the thesis to the Antiplagiat («Антиплагиат») system	Student	No later than May 10 of the ongoing academic year
19.	Checking the thesis in the Antiplagiat («Антиплагиат») system <i>(no less than 30 days before the scheduled date of the thesis defense)</i>	Student	No later than May 15 of the ongoing academic year
20.	Submitting the following papers for review to the academic supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final version of the thesis (a printed hardcopy, and an electronic version); • The thesis abstract; • Printed standard registration form from the Antiplagiat («Антиплагиат») system (and an electronic version) 	Student/ Academic supervisor	No later than May 15 of the ongoing academic year
21.	Preparing and submitting the academic supervisor's written review (as per the established template form) to the student	Academic supervisor	No later than May 22 of the ongoing academic year

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
	<i>(within a week upon receipt of the completed thesis from the student)</i>		
22.	Upon the academic supervisor's approval, the Academic Office submits the final version of the thesis for review to the second reader (reviewer)	Academic Office of the Banking Institute /Academic supervisor/ Reviewer	No later than May .17 of the ongoing academic year
23.	Preparing the reviewer's written opinion (as per the established template form) <i>(within a week upon receipt of the completed thesis)</i>	Reviewer	No later than May 24 of the ongoing academic year
24.	The written review should be provided to the: - student: a written review in regards to their thesis; and - Academic Office of the Banking Institute: the reviewer is entitled to provide a scanned copy of their review by e-mail (if they use an email address which can be clearly identified as belonging to them) <i>(within three calendar days after preparing their review)</i>	Reviewer / Academic Office of the Banking Institute / Student	No later than May 29 of the ongoing academic year
25.	Submitting the hardbound thesis to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an electronic copy and one hardcopy; • the related abstract; • the academic supervisor's review; • a printed standard registration form from the Antiplagiat («Антиплагиат») system 	Student/ Academic Office of the Banking Institute	No later than May 31 of the ongoing academic year

No.	Preparation Stage	Owner of the Thesis Preparation Stage	Deadlines
26.	<p>The written review of the second reader in regards to the final version of the thesis shall be provided to the student by the Academic Office (in the reviewer submits the signed opinion to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute <u>only</u>)</p> <p><i>(within five calendar days upon receipt of the reviewer's opinion)</i></p>	Academic Office of the Banking Institute/ Student	No later than June 04 of the ongoing academic year
27.	Thesis defense	Student/ SEB/ Academic supervisor	June 06 of the ongoing academic year

Annex 2
Request for Approval of Thesis Topic

To: Academic supervisor of the
“Financial Analyst”
degree programme at HSE
V.M. Solodkov

From student enrolled in No. _____

(full name)

(telephone)

(e-mail)

REQUEST

I hereby request the approval of the following topic for my Master’s thesis:

(the title in Russian)

(the title in Russian)

(the title in English)

(the title in English)

Academic supervisor: _____
(full name, academic title, position)

(the student’s signature)

_____ 201_ .

Academic supervisor’s consent: _____
(signature)

To: Academic supervisor of the
“Financial Analyst”
degree programme at HSE
V.M. Solodkov

From student enrolled in group No. _____

(full name)

(telephone)

(e-mail)

REQUEST

I hereby ask to change the topic of my Master’s thesis:
from _____
(the title in Russian)

(the title in Russian)

(the title in English)

(the title in English)

to _____
(the title in Russian)

(the title in Russian)

(the title in English)

(the title in English)

due to the following reasons _____.

(the student’s signature)

_____ 201_ .

Academic supervisor’s consent: _____
(signature)

A request to replace the academic supervisor

To: Academic supervisor of the
“Financial Analyst”
degree programme at HSE
V.M. Solodkov

From the student enrolled in group No. _____

(full name)

(telephone)

(e-mail)

REQUEST

I hereby ask to assign a new academic supervisor for my Master’s thesis on the following topic:

(the title in Russian)

(the title in Russian)

(the title in English)

(the title in English)

my former supervisor

(position, department and full name of the academic supervisor)

my new supervisor

(position, department and full name of the new academic supervisor)

due to the following reasons

_____.

(the student’s signature)

_____ 201_ .

(The former academic supervisor’s signature)

_____ 201_ .

(The new academic supervisor’s signature)

_____ 201_ .

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

Schedule for the Thesis Preparation

(full name)

a second-year student enrolled in Group No. MFA__ of the “Financial Analyst” degree programme of the Banking Institute in the field of study 38.04.08 Finance and Credit

No.	Assignment	Deadlines	Checkpoint	Academic supervisor's opinion (Completed/ Partially completed/ Failed)
1.	Choosing and substantiating the topic and the object of research	Before November 30, 201__.	December 01, 201__.	
2.	Drafting the research programme and submitting a thesis outline for the academic supervisor's approval	Before December 24, 201__.	December 25, 201__.	
3.	Introduction, bibliography			
4.	Chapter 1			
5.	Chapter 2			
6.	Conclusion			
7.	Submitting the first draft of the student's thesis to the academic supervisor, making amendments (if necessary)			
8.	Preliminary thesis defense at the research seminar	April 01-19, 201__.	April 20, 201__.	
9.	Finalizing the thesis and preparing the final version of the thesis: the student submits the final version of the thesis and related abstract to the academic supervisor for review	May 10, 201__.	May 10, 201__.	
10.	Obtaining the academic supervisor's review	May 15 – 22, 201__.	May 22, 201__.	
11.	The thesis review by the second reader	May 17 – 24, 201__.	May 29, 201__.	
12.	Submitting the final version of the thesis to the Academic Office of the Banking Institute	May 31, 201__.	May 31, 201__.	
13.	Thesis defense	-	June 06, 201__.	

Academic supervisor

(position, academic degree and/or academic title)

(Full name)

(signature)

Student

(Full name)

(signature)

ABSTRACT⁴

Автор	
Тема выпускной квалификационной работы (магистерской диссертации)	
Факультет	
Направление подготовки	
Год выполнения выпускной квалификационной работы (магистерской диссертации)	
Научный руководитель	
Описание целей, задач и основных результатов	
Ключевые слова	

ABSTRACT

Student's Name	
Master Thesis Title	
Faculty	
Field of study	
Year of thesis completion	
Academic Supervisor	
Description of the goal, objectives and main results	
Keywords	

⁴ The abstract to the Master's thesis shall be comprised of 2-3 pages (font: Times New Roman, size: 14, interval – 1.5)

Request to postpone the date of the thesis submission and/or defense

To: Academic supervisor of the
“Financial Analyst”
degree programme at HSE
V.M. Solodkov

From student enrolled in Group No. _____
“Financial Analyst”
Degree programme

(Full name)

(telephone)

(e-mail)

REQUEST

I hereby ask to postpone my Master’s thesis submission and/or defense until _____
201_ due to the following reasons:

(please, provide your reasons)

Grounds: _____

(student's signature)
_____ 201_ .

Academic supervisor’s consent _____
(Signature)

Certificate on Failure to Submit a Thesis

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

Certificate

dated ____ _____ 201_

**in regards to the Student's failure to submit their
Master's thesis in due time
Academic year 201_-201_**

This Certificate has been issued to report that as at ____ _____ 201_ , the following second-year student enrolled in group No. ____ of the "Financial Analyst" Master's programme

(full name)

has failed to submit the final version of their Master's thesis to the academic supervisor as per the Regulations on Term Papers and Theses Prepared by Bachelor's, Specialist and Master's Students of National Research University Higher School of Economics (hereafter, the Regulations on Term Papers and Theses), approved by the HSE Academic Council (Minutes No. 08, dated November 28, 2014), and the Guidelines for Preparation, Assessment, Defense and Publication of Theses Written by Students of the 'Financial Analyst' Master's Programme of the HSE Banking Institute, approved by the Expert Methodology Council of HSE Banking Institute (Minutes No. 01, dated November 24, 2015).

No supporting documents which can confirm valid reasons for the student's failure to submit the final version of their Master's thesis have been provided.

The following student _____
(full name)

was requested to provide an explanation in writing.

No written explanation to this effect was provided as of ____ _____ 201_ .

Director of the Banking Institute, Academic Supervisor of the “Financial Analyst” programme

_____ V.M. Solodkov
(signature)

Academic supervisor, academic degree, title,
position

_____ _____
(signature) *(full name)*

SEB Secretary,
Head of Academic Office,
HSE Banking Institute

_____ I.N. Elizarova
(signature)

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

Author's full name

TITLE OF THE THESIS: “ _____ ”

MASTER'S THESIS

in the field of study: 38.04.08 Finance and Credit

Student of Group No. _____

(Master's Programme “Financial Analyst”)

Reviewer

(academic title, position, full name)

Academic supervisor

(academic title, position, full name)

Adviser⁵

(academic title, position, full name)

**Moscow
201_**

⁵ To be included, if approved by an HSE directive

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

Andrey Maikov

TITLE OF THE THESIS

“Analysis of the Declared Synergy in the M&A Transactions”

MASTER’S THESIS

in the field of study: 38.04.08 Finance and Credit

Student of Group No. MFA171

(Master’s Programme “Financial Analyst”)

Reviewer

Candidate of Sciences (PhD), Associate
Professor, School of Finance, HSE Faculty
of Economic Sciences
Natalia Gorelaya

Academic Supervisor

Candidate of Sciences (PhD), Head of the
Internal Control Unit at OJSC “Transfin-M”
Leasing Company,
Natalia Tsangl

**Moscow
2019**

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Bibliography and Sources

General Requirements

- Authors shall be fully responsible for the contents of the bibliography, including all names, titles, and details specified therein;
- Two or several sources cannot be quoted under the same number, and one and the same source cannot be quoted under different numbers;
- Names and initials of all authors shall be given for each literary source, irrespective of their quantity;
- Authors are recommended to give a brief description of non-academic publications (including periodicals, Internet sources with updated content, blogs, forums, etc.) in the main text of thesis (in parentheses) and avoid including them in the bibliography;
- The bibliography shall be provided in Russian and in English.

1. Bibliographical description in Russian

- The following information must be provided in the references to books: names and initials of authors, the book title, the city, the publishing house, the year of publication, and number of pages;
- The following information must be provided in references to articles in journals: names and initials of *all* authors, the title of the article, the title of the journal, the year of publication, the volume (if any), the issue, pages (the first and the last page separated by a hyphen);
- The following information must be provided in references to collections of papers (at conferences or symposiums): names and initials of *all* authors, the title of the collection of papers, the city (venue), the year of publication, the volume (if any), the issue (if any), pages;
- The following information must be provided in references to articles in collections of papers (conference and symposium materials): names and initials of all authors, the title of article, the title of the collection of papers, the city (venue), the year of publication, the volume (if any), the issue (if any), pages (the first and the last page separated by a hyphen);

- Last names should be separated from the initials by one space; there are no spaces between the initials; names of authors in the list should be separated by commas;
- *All* authors of the literary source should be included, irrespective of their quantity;
- Hyphens between descriptive elements should be omitted to make the bibliography shorter;
- The following information must be provided in references to online resources: the resource name, access mode, and the view date;
- If a literary source has been assigned a DOI, it must be provided in the end of the bibliography, while the details of the online source (access mode and the view date) should be omitted.

2. Bibliographical description in English

- The bibliographical description in English should be provided using the Latin alphabet only; diacritical signs can be used for European languages;
- Names and initials of authors of Russian bibliographical sources should be provided using the Latin transcription;
- Names and initials of authors of foreign bibliographical sources should be provided in their original spelling or using the generally acceptable Latin transcription;
- Titles of the Russian literary sources should be transliterated with the English translation provided in brackets;
- If the English translation of a Russian literary source is available, this translation should be given at the end of the description in parentheses as follows: (English translation: ...);
- If the author uses Russian translations of literary sources, the original source should be specified, and the translation with transliterated Russian text should be given at the end of the bibliographical description in parentheses.

3. Bibliography example

1. Shagas N.L., Tumanova E.A. Makroekonomika. Elementy prodvnutogo podkhoda: Uchebnik [Macroeconomics. Elements of Advanced Approach: Coursebook] M.: INFRA-M, 2007. 400 p.
2. Drobyshevsky S., Sinelnikov-Murylev S., Sokolov I. Evolyutsiya budzhetnoy politiki Rossiya v 2000-e gody: v poiskakh finansovoy ustoichivosti natsionalnoy budzhetnoy systemy// Voprosy ekonomiki [Evolution of Russian Budgetary Policy in 2000s: In Search of Financial Stability for the National Budgetary System// Economic Issues], No.1, 2011. p. 4-25.

3. Gurvich E., Suslina A. Rossiyskaya nalogovaya systema – obshchiye i osobennye cherty// Byulleten Ministerstva promyshlennosti, turisma i trgovli Ispanii [Russian Taxation System – Common Features and Special Aspects// Economic Bulletin of the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade], No. 3019. URL: <http://www.eeg.ru/pages/26>. Publication date 06.11.2015.
4. Blanchard O. (2003). Macroeconomics. – Prentice Hall, New Jersey, Ch.26. P. 549-570.
5. Richard A. Breealey, Stewart C. Myers, Franklin Allen (2013). Principles of Corporate Finance. McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 11th ed.
6. Robert Kollmann, Werner Roeger, and Jan in't Veld/(2012) Fiscal Policy in a Financial Crisis: Standard Policy versus Bank Rescue Measures //American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings 2012, 102(3): 77–81.

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

**Academic Supervisor's Review in Regards to the Master's Thesis
Prepared by**

_____,
Full name

the second-year student of the "Financial Analyst" Master's programme of the HSE Banking Institute

on the following topic:

“

”

No.	Assessment Criteria	Academic Supervisor's Grade (on a 10-point scale ⁶)
1	Formal statement of the research problem, original and accurate wording of the research problem	
2	Correspondence between the research methods and goals and objectives of research	
3	Scope and relevance of research publications	
4	Quality of conducted research	
5	Independence of the conducted research	
6	Exploration of the topic, full coverage of research materials, integrity of all components	
7	Novelty, relevance, practical application and reliability of research outcomes obtained by the author	
8	Language and style of the thesis	
9	Fulfilment of requirements for the thesis formatting	
	RECOMMENDED GRADE⁷ for the thesis	

⁶ The following mechanism is used for translating grades assigned on a 10-point scale into a 5-point scale:

10-point scale	5-point scale
1, 2, 3	2, Unsatisfactory
4, 5	3, Satisfactory
6, 7	4, Good
8, 9, 10	5, Excellent

⁷ The recommended grade is given as an arithmetic mean of grades assigned for nine assessment criteria.

Comments:

In their review, the academic supervisor's should:

- Characterize the quality of research work,
- Underline the strong points of the paper,
- Pay special attention to gaps/weaknesses,
- Evaluate the theoretical and practical applicability of research outcomes;
- Provide recommendations in regards to the possible use of research outcomes in future;
- Recommend the thesis for defense

The academic supervisor's review must normally take up to two or three typewritten pages.

Academic supervisor

Academic degree, title,

Place of employment

_____ /signature/ _____ Name and initials

Date

**National Research University
Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

**Second Reader's Review in Regards to the Master's thesis
Prepared by**

full name

the second-year student of the "Financial Analyst" Master's programme of the HSE Banking Institute

on the following topic:

“

”

No.	Assessment Criteria	Reviewer's Grade (on a 10-point scale ⁸)
1	Formal statement of the research problem, original and accurate wording of the research problem	
2	Correspondence research methods and goals and objectives of research	
3	Scope and relevance of research publications	
4	Quality of conducted research	
5	Independence of the conducted research	
6	Exploration of the topic, full coverage of research materials, integrity of all components	
7	Novelty, relevance, practical application and reliability of research outcomes obtained by the author	
8	Language and style of the thesis	
9	Fulfilment of requirements for the thesis formatting	

⁸ The following mechanism is used for translating grades on a 10-point scale into a 5-point scale:

10-point grading scale	5-point grading scale
1, 2, 3	2, Unsatisfactory
4, 5	3, Satisfactory
6, 7	4, Good
8, 9, 10	5, Excellent

	RECOMMENDED GRADE ⁹ for the thesis	
--	--	--

⁹ The recommended grade is given as an arithmetic mean of grades assigned for nine assessment criteria.

Comments:

In their review, the second reader should:

- Characterize the quality of research work,
- Underline the strong points of the paper,
- Pay special attention to gaps/weaknesses,
- Evaluate the theoretical and practical applicability of research outcomes;
- Provide recommendations in regards to the possible use of research outcomes in future;
- Recommend the thesis for defense

The second reader's review must normally take up to two or three typewritten pages.

Reviewer

Academic degree, title,
Place of employment

_____ /signature/ _____ Name and initials

Date

**National Research University
 Higher School of Economics**

Banking Institute

Evaluation Sheet for Assessment of Master's Theses

submitted for defense by the second-year students of the "Financial Analyst" Master's programme of the HSE Banking Institute:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Student's full name</i>	The academic supervisor's grade assigned for the overall quality of research paper and reflecting the key target competencies ¹⁰	The reviewer's grade assigned for the research paper in general, with due regard to well-grounded conclusions and recommendations, as well as its novelty and practical relevance	The Board member's grade assigned for the thesis contents and defense, including the presentation and answers to questions of the Board members	Final grade assigned for the thesis¹¹
		<i>0 - 10 scores</i>	<i>0 - 10 scores</i>	<i>0 - 10 scores</i>	<i>0 - 10 scores</i>
<i>1</i>					
<i>2</i>					
<i>3</i>					
<i>...</i>					

(full name; academic title and degree)

¹⁰ As per the Guidelines for Preparation, Assessment, Defense and Publication of Theses Written by Students of the "Financial Analyst" Master's Programme of the HSE Banking Institute.

¹¹ Final grade= $0,1*Gs + 0,1*Gr + 0,8*Gseb$ (arithmetic mean),

where

Gs – the academic supervisor's grade assigned for the overall thesis quality and its compliance with the established requirements;

Gr – the reviewer's grade for the thesis in general, with due regard to well-grounded conclusions and recommendations, as well as its novelty and practical relevance;

Oseb – the SEB members' grade assigned for the thesis contents and defense, including the presentation and answers to the reviewer's questions (arithmetic mean).