

2.4 Thesis preparation

2.4.1. Goals, objectives and the EPT prerequisites.

Research-based thesis is an obligatory element of the curriculum of the degree program of the second year of study, the purpose of which is the direct implementation of the student's empirical research.

Research-based thesis is focused on development of student's research competencies and consists in the implementation of research carried out in order to obtain new knowledge about the structure, properties and patterns of the studied object (phenomenon).

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- 1) Development of skills for planning and implementation of scientific research;
- 2) Development of public speaking skills;
- 3) Consolidation and demonstration of the competencies mastered in the learning process.

Prerequisites

To successfully complete the research internship, the student should have knowledge in the field of social psychology, theory and methodology of modern psychology, quantitative and qualitative research methods, cross-cultural psychology.

Student should also obtain following knowledge, skills, and competences:

- the ability to work with electronic libraries and find the necessary literature;
- knowledge of the methods of mathematical statistics, as well as possess knowledge of the subject field in which the research is carried out;
- skills in working with statistical packages: SPSS, R, AMOS, MPLUS, PROCESS

2.4.2. Milestones

The schedule of the research-based thesis preparation is agreed by the student with officially appointed scientific supervisor of the thesis and may include the following control points:

- **presentation of the project of empirical study** to research seminar teachers and scientific supervisor before October 30 of the second academic year;
- **completion of the empirical research and presentation of the collected data in coded form** on the research seminar before December 15 of the second year of study;
- **presentation of the results of processing empirical data** on the research seminar before February 1 of the second academic year;

- **providing the text of the empirical part of the thesis** to the teachers of the research seminar before March 1 of the second academic year;
- **pre-defense of a preliminary version of the thesis** on the research seminar until March 25 of the second academic year;
- **official pre-defense of the final version of the thesis** on the research seminar - until May 15 of the second academic year. Pre-defense grade will be a part of Thesis grade with 10% weight;
- **submission of the text of the thesis to the supervisor** with the subsequent correction of the work (if necessary) after the preliminary defense within the terms set by the supervisor;
- **providing the final version of the thesis to the supervisor** before uploading the work to VLIS;
- **uploading the final thesis to VLIS for further checking for plagiarism by the “Turnitin” system** within the timeframes set by the Study office;
- **assessment of the thesis by the supervisor** (writing a review) **and a reviewer** (writing a review) - 3 days before the defense or earlier;
- **public defense** of the thesis - from June 1 to June 15 of the second academic year.

2.4.3. Special aspects and arrangements

The result of research internship of the second year of study is the research-based thesis, prepared in accordance with the standards of the degree program. The requirements for the structure and content of the thesis are set out in Appendix 6 of this document and in Appendix 2 of the program of the research seminar "Economic and Organizational Psychology".

2.4.4. Assessment and reporting procedures

The thesis is provided in electronic form. Verification of the final qualifying work ends with the assessment of the student's thesis by the supervisor (review) and reviewer (review) and public defense of the thesis for the members of the state examination committee.

The grading is done at the closed concluding session at the end of each Defense day; the grades are an average of the individual grades of Commission members. Only the final grade is publicly announced. The Commission takes into consideration Reviews by a Supervisor and an External Reviewer (including grades proposed), oral presentation; content, design and presentation of the final paper; student's answers.

The thesis must be checked by the Study office manager for plagiarism in the text. In accordance with [Regulations on Checking Student Papers for Plagiarism and the Publication of Bachelor's, Specialist and Master's Theses on the HSE Corporate Website](#) master theses prepared by HSE students shall be subject to mandatory checks for plagiarism. Information on master

theses, which account for less than 80% original content, shall be forwarded to the head of the HSE subdivision where the academic supervisor of a master thesis is employed, with a copy to the relevant academic supervisor. The final decision as to whether or not copied material in student master thesis was used appropriately, as it appears from reports provided by programme coordinators, shall be made by the academic supervisor of each thesis, respectively. If plagiarism is detected, academic supervisors must follow the procedure established by HSE bylaws. If the percentage of borrowed material is acceptable, academic supervisors shall write a review of students' theses with an opinion regarding text originality. In the case of a proven plagiarism in final qualifying work, a student may be brought to disciplinary responsibility in accordance with the procedure for the application of disciplinary sanctions for violations of academic norms in the writing of written academic papers at the HSE.

A student who receives an unsatisfactory mark for his thesis is considered expelled according to the regulations on the organization and conduct of the state final certification of students of the NRU HSE. The subsequent right to reinstatement is regulated by a local act on the procedure and conditions for the reinstatement of persons expelled at the initiative of the Higher School of Economics. He is obliged to eliminate this academic debt in the manner prescribed by the local regulations of the university, taking comments into account and, if necessary, finalizing the text of the thesis; the title of the thesis may be changed. Changing of the title is made by order of the Dean of the faculty. For students who have academic debt for their thesis, the procedure for re-examination is regulated by the Regulations on the organization of intermediate certification and current monitoring of students' progress of the HSE.

2.4.5. Resources

To accomplish the research internship of the second year it is recommended to use the electronic library resources of the NRU HSE (<https://library.hse.ru/e-resources>); licensed versions of statistical programs (SPSS, AMOS and MPLUS), free statistics packages (Process) and instruments (G*Power), free software environments (RStudio); Office suite of Microsoft Office applications (Power Point, Word, Excel) and personal computer. If it is necessary to access separate premises and equipment, the student is provided with such access upon request to the university services responsible for booking educational (other) premises, received from the scientific supervisor or the academic director of the program.

2.4.6. Special arrangements for completing the EPT assignments with regard to any restrictions or other measures.

Under the conditions of restrictive measures, all contacts: with respondents, scientific supervisor, reviewers, members of the state examination committee, are carried out remotely. Otherwise, the thesis must be prepared in full and in accordance with the existing requirements.

2.4.7. Other materials and supplementary information.

Empirical data can be collected both through face-to-face interviews and online using special systems. Such systems can include both paid (Qualtrics, Anketolog), shareware (Ika), and free (Google-Survey).

Structure of the Master's Thesis

1st page: Title page

Title page should include:

- a. Name of the institution (Higher School of Economics), the department (Psychology), and the Master's Program (Applied Social Psychology)
- b. Title of the study
- c. Author's (student's) full name
- d. Supervisor(s)' second name and initials
- e. Year

2nd page: Table of contents

3rd page: Abstract and key words Introduction (around 10% of the text)

Chapter 1: Theoretical background (around 30% of the text)

- a. A brief introduction of the objective (problem) of the thesis.
- b. A history of research on the problem and the most important successes (results).
- c. The theoretical and methodological context of the chosen research problem.
- d. Research hypothesis (or questions) that clearly relate to the presented earlier review of literature

Theoretical chapter should include several logically ordered subchapters, each of which can consist of a number of more detailed subchapters. The structure and the content of this chapter depend on your research topic/question(s)/hypotheses, but below you can find some general guidelines how this chapter should be written.

1. Chapters should be logically ordered;
2. The literature should be sufficient in terms of number and relevance of references; All of the key concepts should be clearly defined (a list of definitions of terms that directly pertain to this study should be provided. The list should include definitions of terms that might be unclear to the reader);
3. The literature should be integrated and critically described;
4. Concise but complete evidence should be provided for the hypotheses;
5. If the logic of your theoretical chapter allows, it would be good to finish this section with a chapter "The present research", where you develop the hypotheses for your empirical study.

Chapter 2: Method (around 15% of the text)

Chapter 3: Results (around 25% of the text)

- This chapter addresses the results from your data analysis only. This chapter does not include discussing other research literature or the implications of your findings.
- All results concerning the research problem that are part of the empiric verification of the hypothesis must be shown.
- Usually you begin by outlining any descriptive or exploratory/confirmatory analyses (e.g., reliability tests, factor analysis) that were conducted.
- Then, address the results of the tests of hypotheses.

- Tables and/or figures should be used to illustrate and summarize all numeric information.
- The tables and drawings should be formatted in the same way throughout the whole thesis. The student must also remember that titles of tables are given above them, and captions of drawings – below them.
- The statistical study should start from the values of descriptive statistics that further statistical tests refer to. The analysis results must contain the full information that is the value of the statistical test, the number of degrees of

Chapter 4: Discussion and conclusion (around 20% of the text)

- The purpose of this chapter is not just to reiterate what you found but rather to discuss what your findings mean in relation to the theoretical body of knowledge on the topic and your profession.
- The discussion of results should be started with a reminder of the objective and research problem.
- Begin by discussing your findings in relation to the theoretical framework introduced in the literature review.
- This chapter also should address what your findings mean for communication professionals in the field being examined. In other words, what are the study's practical implications?

Conclusion - Summary of entire thesis in a few pages.

1. Conclusions (a summary of the most important conclusions of the thesis and their meaning).
2. Implications. Speculate about broadest possible consequences, both theoretical and practical.
3. Limitations (factors that were not under the control of the researcher). Theory, method.
4. Suggestions for future research.

References

Appendix (optional)

The paper should be 5-8 thousand words.

The text has to be in Times New Roman, 12pt, double spaced. For formatting please use APA style: <http://www.apastyle.org/> or <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>