

4. Term paper

General info on the term paper

1. The term paper is a compulsory part of The International Master in Comparative Social Research.

2. The study plan is designed so that the coursework submission falls on Module 2 during the 2nd year of study. The term paper has a value of 6 ECTS. According to the HSE regulations the term paper supervisor from HSE gives a grade for successful term paper completion.

Topic and supervisor choice

1. A HSE staff member supervises the student's term paper. The student must be the primary author of the term paper, although the work may be completed together with a co-author (who is neither another CSR student nor the student's advisor).

2. The students should submit a printed and filled in application form for term paper topic and supervisor (Appendix 1)¹ to the program manager on the last week of Module 3 of the 1st year of study. The form should indicate the term paper title in Russian and English and be signed by the supervisor.

3. Upon the approval of the chosen topic by the academic council of the Master's program, the program manager issues an order on the topic and supervisor for each student. The Academic council may recommend that the student make changes to the topic. The order is prepared by the first day of Module 4 of the current school year.

4. The student may file a claim for topic or supervisor change (Appendix 2 and 3) no later than one month before the end of Module 2 – the date the final text of the term paper is to be submitted.

5. Both the student and the supervisor should sign the application form. The student can provide a scanned copy of the form to the manager in case he or she is participating in the student mobility at the time the form is to be submitted.

Term paper supervision and student interaction

1. The student and the supervisor agree on the time schedule for term paper completion. According to HSE regulations the main elements are:

- Term paper project presentation (which describes the relevance and structure of the work plan, a list of the main references for this work, expected result);
- Preliminary presentation of the work at the research seminar /optional/ - may be performed as a presentation at a scientific seminar at the internship organisation;
- Submission of a first draft and feedback on the term paper;
- Final text submission of the term paper to the supervisor;
- “Anti-plagiat” (or relevant English-language anti-plagiarism software) text check-up;
- Term paper review by the external referee (optional);
- Feedback and grading from the term paper supervisor;
- Term paper defence (optional).

Term paper content and structure

The term paper for the CSR Master's program must meet the following characteristics:

1. General requirements

- The term paper is completed in English.
- It should meet the formal requirements of an advanced draft or 'ready for submission' stage of an academic paper, or it may already be submitted to a journal. Term paper already submitted to a journal and representing publishable quality in the eyes of the supervisor will be granted a

¹ Please consult your program manager on how to fill in the course application form.

bonus grade. A letter or email from the journal's editor or manager must document this.

2. Term paper contents

- The term paper may be co-authored with a colleague (but not one of the academic supervisors), but the student must be the first and primary author, both formally and in substance.
- The content of the article may be theoretical or empirical. It should be ideally closely related to the student's MA thesis theme.
- The article must be between 8000 and 10 000 words long (including references, footnotes, tables, graphics, etc.).
- The article must be of the highest scientific standards of ethics and research (adequately and accurately citing all relevant sources).
- The article must include substantial original content of the student, either empirically, theoretically, or both (which is the same standard required to be published in the first instance).

3. Term paper structure

The structure should conform, in style and format, to English-language academic peer-reviewed journals.

Grading, re-examination and appeal

1. The student must submit the hard copy and electronic file of the completed term paper to the term paper supervisor and the Master's program manager. The report from the "Anti-plagiat" or other relevant anti-plagiarism software should be attached.

2. The term paper supervisor assesses the final version of the term paper on a ten-point scale. To receive credits for the term paper, students should be awarded a grade of at least 4 on a ten-point scale.

3. The final grade is based on 7 criteria:

- a) Publishability of the article in a English-language peer-reviewed journal;
- b) Adequacy of term paper topic and the contents of the research;
- c) Fulfilment of goals and objectives of the research project;
- d) Originality and novelty of the term paper;
- e) Adherence to professional ethics and citation standards;
- f) Level of student's personal contribution to the topic's development;
- g) Term paper formatting.

4. In addition to the grade the supervisor also gives detailed feedback according to the approved form (Appendix 4).

5. In the case where the term paper is graded less than 4 on a ten-point scale the student will not get ECTS's awarded. The student is expected to resubmit the term paper in the next module. The term paper topic can be modified upon consultation of the term paper supervisor and program academic supervisor. The student may resubmit the term paper only once.

6. The student may contest the grades for the term paper following the general appeal procedures. The student may file an appeal to the academic supervisor of the program within 3 working days upon receiving the grades with detailed grounds for appeal. The appeal committee will make a decision within 3 working days.

Term paper storage

The Study Office of the Master's program stores copies of term paper for 2 years (either in the form of hard copies or electronic files)

Formatting of the Term paper

Term paper formatting should conform precisely to that of the targeted journal. The following *general recommendations* are superseded by the targeted journal's requirements.

Text format

1. Headings of sections

- Table of Contents, List of Abbreviations, Introduction, Conclusion, References, Appendices, and Annexes.
- Times New Roman 16, bold, aligned left, not numbered.
- Headings of chapters: Times New Roman 16, bold, aligned left, numbered (1, 2, etc.).

2. Headings of sub-chapters and sub-sub-chapters
 - Times new Roman 14, bold, aligned left, numbered (1.1, 1.1.1, 1.2, etc.).
3. Paragraphs
 - Each paragraph should be from 10 to 15 lines (on average). There should be no spacing between a paragraph and the following one.
4. Block quotations
 - Times New Roman 11, single-spaced, justified, each line indented left.
5. Footnotes
 - Times New Roman 11, single-spaced, aligned left, no first line indentation.
6. Page numbers
 - All the pages of the file should be counted and listed.
7. Margins
 - Left, right – 3 cm.
 - Bottom, top – 2,01cm.
8. Bibliography
 - Entries should be categorized and alphabetized.
 - Times New Roman 14, aligned left, single-spaced with spacing between each entry and the next one.
 - No first line indentation, no numbering, no bullet points.
9. Page numbering
 - Page numbers start from the Table of Contents (page 2) and end with the Bibliography.
 - Appear at the bottom of the page, centered.
10. Page break between sections
 - Page break between sections, e.g. between the Table of Contents and the List of Abbreviations (if included), between the List of Abbreviations, list of tables, list of figures and Introduction, between the Introduction and the Main Body, between the Main body and the Conclusion, between the Conclusion and the Bibliography, between the Bibliography and the Appendixes or Annexes (if included).
 - Page break at the end of each chapter (i.e. start each chapter on a new page) is required.

Citations/ References

1. APA (American Psychological Association) citation regulations apply: (<http://www.apastyle.org/manual/index.aspx>).
2. Citations in Text – one or two authors author
 - In-text citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs.
 - All last names occur in the text.
 - Names are connected with “&” (Muller & Smith, 2014).
 - Names of the authors or the date might be part of the statement, in this case only missing information is given in parentheses.
3. Citations in Text – more than 2 authors
 - In-text citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs.
 - All last names occur in the text when reference is made first.
 - Name of the author or the date might be part of the statement, in this case only missing information is given in parentheses.
 - In subsequent citations the first author’s name occurs followed by “et al.”
4. Internet references
 - The same rules apply as for printed references.
 - Online references have to show the correct and full link and to be accompanied by the statement “last accessed” including date of accessing the reference.
5. Reference List
 - Bibliography includes only references cited in the text.
 - All references cited must be included in the bibliography.
 - References should in alphabetical order by authors' last names

