

TTÜ School of Information Technologies briefing aimed at writing a thesis and graduation

October 27, 2017
Room NRG-226



Briefing topics

- Formal procedure of graduation (Katri Kadakas)
- Presentation on theses and graduation (Gunnar Piho)
 - What is a good thesis?
 - What kind of a thesis should not be submitted?
 - Indicative evaluation criteria
 - Thesis formatting
 - Deadlines (spring 2018)
 - Where can you find thesis topics, supervisors, and deadlines (Liisi Ilu)
- ICT thesis contest (Liisi Ilu)



Application for the defense

- submission in ÕIS; deadlines: December 22, 2017 and May 14, 2018
- check the title of thesis in Estonian and English
- print out the application
- take supervisor's signature
- bring the application to the Dean's office
 - If the supervisor is from another department, take a written consent from the head of your study program and send it to the Dean's office



Permission to defend

Defense application can be satisfied, if:

- all modules of one specialization of curriculum are fulfilled
- all subjects are in correct modules
 - for transfer of subjects, a written consent form from the head of the study program is needed
- results of last exams are in a week before defense
- performances done in Open University are transferred to your account in ÕIS a week before defense
- assessment for internship (practical placement) is in ÕIS
- the paid students have paid for the defense



What is a good thesis?



An “excellent” grade is

- prominent and especially thorough knowledge of the subject
- knowledge of both theoretical and applied content
- free and creative application of learning outcomes
- extensive independent work
- versatile knowledge of specialist literature



A good thesis is

- An **independent** research with a **clear result** (proven theorem, an algorithm designed, intended or tested software, process analysis, etc.)
- Addresses a **timely/novel** topic, while giving sufficient and relevant **review of alternative** or similar approaches (based on scientific literature)
- Uses a correct set of research **methods** or methodology to analyze the problem
- The result of work done is **reasonable** and **reliable**
- A well-**structured** and -reasoned **analytical** work
- A well-**balanced** work – an introduction/review of **scientific literature**, methodology, description of work done, analysis and justification
- Formatted correctly – references, spelling, volume, etc.



Balanced

The right thing done wrong	The right thing done right
The wrong thing done wrong	The wrong thing done right



What kind of a thesis should not be submitted?

- Report or general **essay** on a selected topic
- Work with missing or **not clearly defined** research problem and methodology
- Work in which **choices** made by the author, e.g. in regards to methodology, review of scientific literature, **are not justified or adequately reasoned**
- Work where **author's contribution** is not clearly distinguishable, or is otherwise poorly structured
- Work where it seems that everything is technically correct, but there is **no fundamental content**
- Work which includes important and relevant content, but is **technically incorrect**
- **Plagiarism** and otherwise **incorrectly formatted** work



Indicative evaluation criteria (1)

Research topic, **novelty** and elaboration of the topic

- Clear wording of the **research topic**
- **Novelty/relevance** of the topic
- **Compliance** of the work done with the topic and the objective
- Degree of **elaboration**, including the **analysis** of potential similar / alternative solutions, suitability of the method, adequacy of the solution and implementation, logicality and **validity** of results /conclusions

Complexity of the topic and student's contribution to the work

- Complexity of the topic
- Usage of **novel methods** for finding a solution
- Contribution of student's **independent work** and the amount of work done



Indicative evaluation criteria (2)

Formatting of the thesis

- Formatting in accordance with the School of IT's instructions
- Correct usage of sources (compliance with the **citation** rules)
- The adequacy, appropriateness and relevance of used **literature**
- Logical organization and **structure** of the work, balance of various parts and overall understandability
- **Conformity** of the text and annexes (if any)

Defense / oral presentation

- Clear **explanation** of the research problem and the work carried out (inc. explanation of the solution)
- Author's own **contribution/work** is clearly highlighted
- Author's **mastery** of the topic, defense of the work done (inc. solution) and answering the questions convincingly



Thesis formatting

- Uniform requirements for thesis formatting are effective at the School of Information Technologies.
 - The author guidelines and formatting requirements for thesis preparation can be found on the School's homepage: <https://www.ttu.ee/faculties/school-of-information-technologies/it-studies/thesis-and-graduation-9/thesis-formatting-5/>
 - See also the guide to using sources and avoiding plagiarism (same page)



Structure

1. Introduction (< 10%)
 - 1.1 Background
 - 1.2 Problem
 - 1.3 Purpose
 - 1.4 Overview of the thesis
2. Method (<20%)
 - 2.1 Overview of the object
 - 2.2 Overview of the tools
 - 2.3 Overview of the process
3. Results (30-40%)
4. Analysis, discussion, conclusions (30-40%)
5. Summary (0.5 pg)



Important aspects

- **Title**
 - the main idea in a narrative sentence
- **Minimalism** and accuracy
- Your own **contribution**
 - clear and emphasized mention
- **First** sub-section of each section
 - states the most important idea
- The **last** sub-section of each section
 - repeats the most important idea
- Structural parts with headings
 - start and end with **text**
 - do not end or start with a table, a drawing, a list



Relevant sources of literature

1. Scientific journals and conferences

1. ACM Digital Library (<https://dl.acm.org/>)
2. IEEE Explore (<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/home.jsp>)
3. Science Direct (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>)
4. ISI Web Of Science ()
5. TTU Library
(<https://www.ttu.ee/asutused/raamatukogu/10640/andmebaasid-databases/databases-eng/>)

2. Monographs

3. Other resources

Raamatukogu

Avaleht Infoallikad Teenused Teaduskonnale Tudengile Raamatukogust Muuseum Kontakt

Oled siin: TTU esileht > Asutused > Raamatukogu > Infoallikad > Andmebaasid / Databases > Databases (eng)

Infoallikad

Üliõpilastood

e-kataloog ESTER

Infokiosk

Uudiskirjandus

Digitaalne säilitusekspliar

Kogude paigutus

Primo: e-ressursside portaal

Andmebaasid / Databases

- > Databases (eng)
- > e-ajakirjad / e-Journals

Databases (eng)

Jaga

DATABASES:
Journal articles, e-Books, statistics, company information etc.
Remote access via [TORU](#). IT Helpdesk: SOC-129.

e-resources search portal PRIMO

Databases: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W

New: Trial De Gruyter journals (until 30.06)

ACM Digital Library
Full text of every article ever published by ACM and bibliographic citations from major publishers in computing.

ACS Publications
ACS publishes products and services for the practice and advancement of the chemical sciences.

PRIMO

e-resources search portal enables to make a combined search among the numerous e-resources provided by the library.
Using Primo



Deadlines for spring 2018

- December 1, 2017 – submission of thesis task specification (MSc)
- March 1, 2018 - submission of thesis task specification (BSc)
 - Detailed requirements and guidelines on the curriculum homepage
- Intermediate deadlines set with the supervisor
- May 7, 2018 – thesis submission deadline (MSc)
- May 21, 2018 – thesis submission deadline (BSc)
- May 14, 2018 – Submission of the application for defense of graduation thesis
- Thesis defense in-between: May 21 – June 12, 2018
- June 8, 2018 – thesis defense deadline (MSc)
- June 12, 2018 – thesis defense deadline (BSc)



Communication with the supervisor

- Continuous
 - Once a week
- Leave time for the supervisor
 - To read
 - To answer
 - To think
- Leave time for yourself
 - To think
 - To make changes
 - To read the thesis aloud to the dog



Topics, supervisors and deadlines

- Homepages of study programs:
 - In Estonian: <https://www.ttu.ee/teaduskond/infotehnoloogia-teaduskond/it-tudengile/magistrioep-54/>
 - In English: <https://www.ttu.ee/faculties/school-of-information-technologies/it-studies/masters-studies/>
 - Subpages for thesis and graduation: <https://www.ttu.ee/faculties/school-of-information-technologies/it-studies/thesis-and-graduation-9/>
 - Materials of the briefings: <https://www.ttu.ee/faculties/school-of-information-technologies/it-studies/thesis-and-graduation-9/materials-of-the-briefings-2/>



ICT thesis contest 2018

- Master's and Bachelor's studies
- Why participate?
 - preliminary defense of your thesis
 - relevant and meaningful feedback on your thesis and speech
 - acknowledgement for academic accomplishment
 - gather inspiration for writing your own thesis
 - get to know what other students write about in their theses
 - opportunity to establish new contacts with company representatives
 - interesting discussions and guest performance

More information: www.ttu.ee/ictcontest

