

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313228 Social Policy, Employment and Welfare	OB	0	2

Contact

Name: Joel Martí Olivé

Email: Joel.Marti@uab.cat

Prerequisites

The Master's Degree Dissertation or Master's Thesis (MT) integrates the content from different courses of the Master's program. In order to be able to properly develop this project, it is essential to have taken or be taking the module on Research Methods and the theoretical modules which are related to the subject matter of study.

Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Objectives and Contextualisation

The Master's Degree Dissertation aims to have the student apply the appropriate theoretical and methodological knowledge to design a research project under the direction of two supervisors (a theoretical supervisor and a methodological supervisor). The research must define the theoretical framework, the methodological design and use quantitative and/or qualitative methods to obtain information and to analyse the data.

Skills

- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Design and conduct research projects on work, gender and social policy, using advanced qualitative and quantitative research techniques.
- Design, implement and evaluate social and labour policies affecting the relationship between work, employment and welfare.
- Design, implement and evaluate social policies and processes for resource redistribution and improvement of citizens' welfare, in different contexts and from a European perspective.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Put forward innovative proposals for the relevant field of study.
- Recognise the main economic, political, social and cultural transformations of complex societies in order to analyse the fundamental challenges they pose to equality and welfare.
- Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse the rules on case law procedures of the European Union.
2. Become proficient in the use of the computer programmes needed to analyse results from each of the methods and techniques employed in the module.

3. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
4. Critically examine a research project from a methodological perspective, identifying the different designs, methods and techniques, and their advantages and disadvantages.
5. Defend a research project orally before a specialist audience.
6. Design social research projects, showing the ability to identify the root of a problem, define research hypotheses and put forward an appropriate methodological design..
7. Draft a research project report in accordance with formal academic structure and criteria.
8. Evaluate the practical implications of empirical research in terms of timing and costs.
9. Identify the main economic, social and work-related elements of the European Social Model and their transformations.
10. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
11. Interpret, apply and identify the repercussions of the different methodological paradigms and their specific methods of social research, for the research model and design and, in particular, to put together a mixed design..
12. Interpret the main lines of intervention on the relationship between work, welfare and gender inequalities.
13. Put forward innovative proposals for the relevant field of study.
14. Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
15. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
16. Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.

Content

The MT consists of the following parts:

1. Theoretical framework

All the MTs must contain a theoretical framework which envisages, in the first place, a literature review and, second, a definition of the object of study.

2. Model / hypotheses

This section will present the research questions or hypotheses, based on the theoretical framework. These questions have to be explicitly stated and be susceptible of empirical observation.

3. Methodology

This section should explain, in the first place, what kind of research design has been conducted (qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods design) and which have been the most important decisions of this design. With respect to the sources of information, they may be statistical data, based on the use of documents, qualitative interviews, focus groups or direct observations. This section has to justify why these research tools are used as well as the advantages and limitations of the decisions made.

With regard to data analysis, it must indicate which methodological approach has been adopted and the procedure followed.

4. Analysis

Presentation of data analysis, either a summary in case the final report exceeds 15.000 words (in this case, the complete analysis will be included in an appendix). The analysis must answer the specific research questions -or validate the hypotheses.

5. Conclusions

Overview of the approach of the MT, summary of the results and discussion. This section will also mention the points which were not able to be empirically observed and the theoretical and methodological aspects that remain open for a possible continuation of the research.

6. References

7. Appendix.

Statistical tables, graphics. Record of any qualitative information used. Analysis performed (if only a summary was presented in the Results section).

Extension (excluding Appendix): 15.000 words (40-45 pages).

Methodology

The activity of this module is based on the individualized tutorials and follow-up by both supervisors. The follow-up also includes four group meetings and the final presentation of the thesis, orally and written, prior discussion of draft papers with supervisors.

The dates of group meetings and submissions will be provided at the beginning of course.

I. Meetings

First Meeting (1MC)

Presentation of the module. Objectives, content and organization of the MT.

Second Meeting (3MC)

Presentation of research groups and lines of research in Sociology Department.

Third Meeting (3MC)

Selection of the MT subject (oral presentation). Guidelines and allocation of supervisors.

Fourth Meeting (4MC)

Public presentation of the MT project (objectives, literature review, theoretical framework, hypotheses, design, methods, references). Submission of the research project.

II. Written presentations

Presentation 1: Research project (2.000 words).

Presentation 2: Theoretical framework and research design (7.000 words). Title of the MT in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Presentation 3: Final draft (15.000 words).

Presentation 4: Final report (15.000 words).

The MT can be presented in June or in September. The deadline for submitting reports will be provided at the beginning of course

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
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Type: Directed

Group Meetings	6	0.24	8, 5, 11, 4, 13, 14, 3, 10
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Type: Supervised

Tutorials (office/online)	20	0.8	8, 5, 11, 4, 13, 14, 3, 10, 7, 16
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Type: Autonomous

Literature review, fieldwork, analysis, writing and preparation of presentations	123	4.92	8, 5, 11, 4, 13, 14, 3, 10, 7, 16
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Evaluation

Evaluation: 80% Written report and 20% Oral Presentation.

Within a period of two weeks after the final submission, the MT will be defended publicly before a committee formed by professors who have supervised the MT. The defence will consist of a presentation of no more than 20 minutes, followed by questioning from the committee and ending with a turn to answer. Finally, the committee will deliberate and notify the result of the evaluation.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Master's Thesis (written report and defence)	100%	1	0.04	6, 1, 8, 5, 2, 11, 9, 4, 12, 13, 14, 3, 10, 7, 15, 16

Bibliography

No specific