

Code: 42144

ECTS: 15

Degree	Year	Semester
Master in Economics and Business	1	2

Contact

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Language

English

Objectives

The master's thesis is a carefully argued scholarly paper of approximately 5.000 – 6.000 words (roughly 25-30 pages). It should present either an original research well founded and developed on a topic of your interest, or a survey of the state-of-the-art literature over a topic of your interest that is carefully documented from reliable and prestigious sources. In any case, an original contribution is expected.

The thesis must have a focus that falls within the topics of the MEBA program, and it must be written under the guidance of an advisor.

In MEBA the master theses are written in groups of 2-3 people. It is the students' task to propose a group to other classmates or to join an existing group. There will be no intervention on the side of the program coordinators.

As the final element in the master's degree, the thesis gives the student an opportunity to demonstrate expertise in the chosen area and to develop the necessary team-work skills.

Skills

T1: Understanding academic research in the above areas.

T2: Contextualizing problems using formal models that allow a quantitative analysis.

T3: Arguing and writing in a precise, clear and concise manner reports on the proposed problems, in English.

T4: Using various statistical software to process data.

T5: Conduct empirical studies.

T6: Make oral presentations in English.

T7: Respect the ethical, social and environmental values.

Learning outcomes

E6.1: Organize, plan and manage the information required for a master thesis on industrial organization, public policy or finance.

E6.2: Demonstrate creativity and originality in the production of the master thesis on industrial organization, public policy or finance.

Contents

After some initial research on the topic chosen, write a 200-250 word abstract followed by some preliminary references. Approach your possible advisor with it and try to convince her or him about the value and interest of your proposal. Once your topic has been duly refined and counts with the approval of your supervisor, complete the Application for Approval of Master's Thesis Topic, have it signed by your advisor, and submit it to the MEBA coordinators by the announced deadline.

Once a faculty member has accepted to advise your master thesis, agree on a timetable for meetings and submission of drafts. A standard process usually implies three to four meetings: at the beginning, to fix the topic precisely, and to review the first or second drafts. As a general rule, each group is entitled to 3 hours of advisor time. It is students' responsibility to keep advisors apprised of the master thesis progress. Please notice that advisors need time to read and evaluate your work before giving it back to you with comments, and anticipate also that you must have time to incorporate those comments. Appropriate time (not one or two days) has to be allowed to your advisor to return your work to you, whether it is at an initial stage or already the final version. It is appropriate to ask your advisor when you can expect comments in order to organize your own calendar, but you are expected not to pressure advisors to respond quickly.

Students are also responsible for the formal quality of the final copy of their master thesis, which has to be free from spelling and grammatical errors and fulfill standard presentation requirements; advisors do not verify line-by-line editing.

Methodology

Any regular faculty member at the UAB Faculty of Economics and Business Studies is entitled, although not required, to become a master thesis supervisor.

It is students’ responsibility to find an advisor. Advisors provide general guidance and help to define the questions to be addressed in the master thesis. Since the beginning of the master sessions in September, students should try to get as much acquainted as possible with the array of alternatives available at our Faculty – both in terms of research topics as well as specialists – and not limit their choice to only those faculty members they have worked with in courses before having to decide about their master thesis.

Approval of thesis topic and thesis advisor by the MEBA coordinators is needed.

Learning activities

Title (type activity)	Hours
Type: Supervised	
Tutoring and monitoring (thesis writing, presentation, advising)	262.5
Type: Self learning	
Reading	112.5

Assessment criteria

Each Master Thesis will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the MEBA coordination. This committee will be composed of a panel of three professors that are experts in the topic addressed in the thesis. The thesis must be defended in a public academic event in front of that committee. All the students that participate in the thesis must also participate in their thesis defense. Both the thesis written report and the thesis defense will be evaluated by the committee, and each student will receive an individual grade based on his or her performance.

Assessment activities

Title	Weight
Thesis paper	75%
Oral presentation	25%