

Information on Master Theses

The Department of Quantitative Finance at the University of Freiburg focusses on the following **research areas**:

- Derivatives pricing and hedging
- Management of interest rate, credit and liquidity risk
- Portfolio management
- Green finance
- Systemic risk
- Model uncertainty

As **prerequisite** for a master thesis at our department, you must have successfully completed at least two courses in the finance profile.

Please submit your application no more than 3 months prior to the date when you wish to start with your thesis. Topics change over time and cannot be reserved in advance.

When your application has been accepted, we kindly ask you to follow the guidelines below to ensure a smooth and fair process to completing your master thesis.

Preparation phase

- In the **first meeting**, potential topics for the thesis are discussed. Ideally, you should also propose an own research topic and prepare a short synopsis.
- There will be one additional meeting to fix the specific topic before the official registration of your thesis.
- In a further meeting, the structure, anticipated methodology and the availability of data (if applicable) for your thesis will be discussed.
- Thereafter, students should **officially register** their master thesis with the examination office. You find the registration form on the website of the examination office (see below).

Writing phase

- The progress, preliminary results and potential questions can be discussed in further meetings until the official submission date of your thesis.
- Towards the end of the writing phase, students should give a **short presentation** of their preliminary results in the department's internal seminar to obtain some feedback before the submission date.
- Please note that only the final submitted thesis will be read by the supervisor. **Preliminary versions will not be read or corrected.**

Literature

- Every thesis must include an appropriate review of the related literature. When searching for related work, you should study papers that are published in the major finance or economics journals, such as Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Review of Financial Studies, Management Science, Operations Research, American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Banking and Finance, Review of Finance, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control etc.
- Other papers can of course also be included when closely related to your work.
- Always cite the published paper not any prior working paper version.
- References should preferably be in “author (year)” style.

Plagiarism and AI policy

- We have a zero-tolerance policy with regard to plagiarism. Students who submit plagiarized work will be graded with 5.0.
- The use of artificial intelligence (AI) for writing purposes (e.g. to improve readability) is allowed but needs to be disclosed (which software for what purposes).
- If AI tools are used to analyze and draw insights from data, this also needs to be disclosed. Note that these parts of the thesis cannot be considered as own research work of the author and will not be considered in grading the final thesis. The grading will then rather focus on the research design and other parts of the thesis that are original contributions of the author.

For general questions regarding master theses, please visit the homepage of the examination office first:

M.Sc. Economics: <https://master.econ.uni-freiburg.de/students/procedures>

M.Sc. VWL: <https://www.wirtschaftswissenschaften.uni-freiburg.de/de/pruefungsamt>

There you also find information on writing a master thesis (page limit, line spacing, cover page etc.). The master thesis can be written either in English or German. Thorough proof-reading is advisable, as the linguistic quality is also taken into account when grading your thesis.

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