

INFORMATION ON MASTER THESES

Thanks a lot for your interest in writing your master thesis at the [Department of Quantitative Finance](#) at the University of Freiburg.

We cover 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.

1. REGISTRATION PHASE

- After being **accepted**, please fill out the registration form which you find on the website of the examination office and **submit it first to the examination office**:
For MEP: <https://master.econ.uni-freiburg.de/students/procedures>
For VWL: <https://www.wirtschaftswissenschaften.uni-freiburg.de/de/pruefungsamt>
- The examination office will then check whether you meet all the **requirements** to be able to start your master's thesis and will pass on the registration form to our chair.
- In an **initial meeting** with our chair, we will discuss the topic of your thesis and agree on a specific date for the start of your work.
- The registration form including the **title and start date of your thesis** will then be forwarded by the chair to the examination office. You will receive an email or letter from the examination office about the **official registration** of your thesis. The processing time begins with this letter, as the exact topic is only communicated here.

2. WRITING PHASE

- In a second meeting, we will discuss the outline, anticipated methodology and data availability (if applicable) for your thesis.
- 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 needs to include a suitable review of the related literature. When searching for related work, study papers that are published in top 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, etc.) as well as top field journals (such as 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.

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.

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 analyse 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.

CONTACT

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