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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

Faculty of Business, Economics and  
Social Sciences

Department of Business  
Administration

**Institute of Financial Management**

# Guidelines for Writing a Master Thesis

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Prof. Dr. Philip Valta  
Director of the Institute  
Engehaldenstrasse 4  
CH-3012 Bern  
[www.ifm.unibe.ch](http://www.ifm.unibe.ch)

## Preliminary remarks

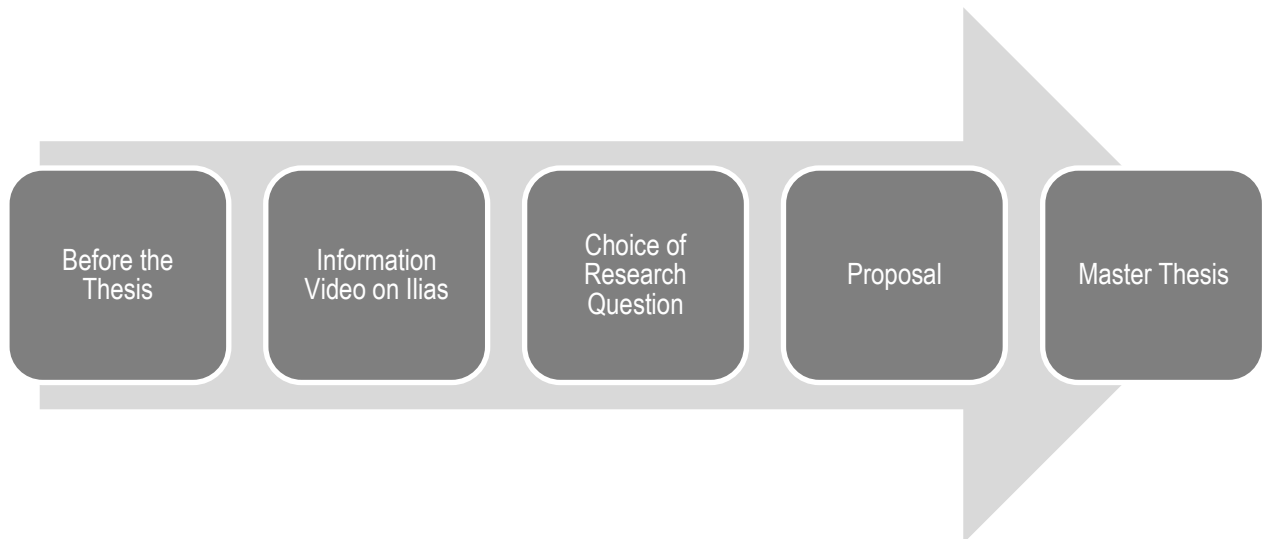
We are delighted that you are interested in writing your Master thesis at the Institute for Financial Management (IFM). We believe that this task will offer you valuable experience and insights that will be beneficial for your upcoming professional challenges. Throughout this process, you'll learn how to independently identify and structure problems, find solutions, and document them in a report. Moreover, choosing to write your thesis at the IFM will provide you with an opportunity to gain practical experience in working with data.

The first step of your Master thesis after you have familiarized yourself with the guidelines, is to watch the information video on Ilias. This video will assist you in identifying suitable topics and formulating a thesis proposal. Additionally, it provides guidance on the fundamental aspects of writing a Master thesis at the IFM.

The following guideline briefly summarizes the information relevant for writing an empirical Master thesis. In addition, it contains lots of useful *advice, links and examples*. The guideline shall accompany you on the way to your Master thesis and serve as a reference. Its structure is closely related to the structure of a Master thesis.

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## 1. Before the Thesis

Before writing a Master thesis at the IFM, we strongly recommend that you fulfil the following criteria:

- Completed Bachelor's degree.
- Successful completion of the lecture "Econometrics I" (Economics), the seminar "Empirical Finance", or any equivalent courses from other universities.
- Successful completion of two or more of the following lectures:
  - o Financing and Capital Structure
  - o Advanced Valuation
  - o Investments
  - o Derivatives
  - o Risk Management
  - o Fixed Income

Or equivalent courses from other universities.

## 2. Information Video

The information video is mandatory for all Master thesis candidates at the IFM. It is essential that you watch this video before you start working on your Master thesis, as it provides valuable tips for the successful completion of your work. The video focuses on various key aspects, including topic selection, targeted development of a thesis idea, data acquisition, literature research, and writing academic texts. Please note that if we realize that you are unfamiliar with the content of the video, we will reject all proposed topics.

### 3. Research Question

Based on our needs, the IFM provides a list of possible research topics, but it encourages students to come up with their own research questions. The main advantage of proposing your own research question is that you can *choose a topic that aligns with your personal interest*. Ideally, you come up with an empirical research question in the field of financial market or corporate finance research.

Regardless of whether you select your own research question or choose one of our suggested topics, you must submit at least two carefully developed thesis ideas (cf. Chapter 3.4 and appendix III). The advisor of your thesis will discuss the ideas with you after having determined their feasibility. If both ideas are considered feasible, we will discuss the choice with you.<sup>1</sup>

There are no specific deadlines for submitting your thesis ideas, so you can send them to us whenever you are ready. You are free to choose whether you want to write your thesis in English or in German.

#### 3.1 How to find your topic and familiarize yourself with it

In the past, the following methods have proven to be especially useful in looking for a suitable research topic:

- *Published studies*: Consult recent scientific finance literature. There are two ways how published research can help you find a suitable topic. The first one is replicating a foreign study using e.g. Swiss data. The second one is addressing a question left unanswered by existing papers.
- *Existing Master theses*: Master theses composed by your predecessors can be worth having a look at. You can find their titles on the IFM website; in addition, the printed theses are available at the institute. Selected, outstanding and highly relevant theses are fully published under “Knowledge Transfer” on the IFM website.
- *Actualities*: Follow the news. Topics covered in the media can help you find interesting research questions.

As soon as you find a topic that you are interested in, it is of towering importance to carefully assess what *data* you need and whether they are available and accessible (cf. Chapter 3.2). The next step is to read into the *literature* (cf. Chapter 3.3). Ultimately, you write your *thesis ideas* (cf. Chapter 3.4).

Before choosing your topic, it is crucial that you become familiar with it, even if it is a topic provided by us. This is to ensure, that your interest in the research topic is not only temporary.

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<sup>1</sup> To make sure that adequate supervision can be provided, we have to limit the number of Master theses. The number is set according to the capacity of the institute.

## 3.2 Data availability

Master theses at the IFM are almost exclusively empirical. Therefore, the data situation is an important issue. It is your responsibility to ensure that the data are available in the appropriate format. For example, daily stock performance data is readily available, but the same is not true for intraday data.

You can either manually record the data (e.g. publicly announced dates for certain events) or obtain them from a data provider (e.g. performance data from Datastream). A list of the most common data sources can be found in attachment I.

## 3.3 Literature

Having a solid foundation of academic literature is key for the success of your Master thesis. This groundwork helps you to distinguish your research question from existing work. Please be aware that there are qualitative differences even among academic publications.<sup>2</sup> In appendix II, you find a ranking of scientific journals in finance. This ranking helps you to learn more about the quality of the articles you choose. In case you decide to replicate an existing paper, please make sure that this study meets high quality standards.

Lots of scientific publications (journals) are available online. You are able to access most articles for free through the University network. If you are not within the University network, make sure to connect through the University's VPN. Appendix I provides a list of helpful links for your literature research.

## 3.4 Thesis idea

Choosing an exciting, feasible, and novel research question is the foundation for a successful thesis proposal. A good proposal summarizes the object of your research and its relevance as well as the goals and the planned course of action of your Master thesis. Therefore, the following points should be clarified *within one A4 page*:<sup>3</sup>

- *Problem*: What is the problem you intend to address in your thesis? What has been done in this area so far? What is the current state of research? Elaborating on historical and current events is only a small part of the thesis and should not occupy too much space.
- *Goal and relevance*: This is the core of your thesis. What do you want to accomplish with your research? What questions do you want to answer? What hypotheses do you

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<sup>2</sup> Be especially careful when using university scripts, textbooks, diploma theses, newspaper articles and links to websites, since they might not meet the criteria set by academia.

<sup>3</sup> As the IFM only suggests general topics, it is crucial that you elaborate on the thesis proposal yourself even when choosing one of these topics.

want to test? Why is your research relevant? This section should highlight your contribution and describe how your research questions differ from other questions.<sup>4</sup>

- *Methodology*: How do you want to achieve the goal you set? Briefly discuss what methods you intend to use for your research. Please also explain what statistical methods you intend to use to test your hypotheses (e.g. event study).
- *Data*: What data do you need for the research? Elaborate on where you will get it from.
- *Bibliography (not compulsory)*: The bibliography contains the main sources on which your thesis will be based (e.g. the study you want to replicate).

## 4. Proposal

Once your thesis idea has been approved, you now have a clear subject for your Master thesis. The next step is to develop the proposal, which is an advanced version of your Master thesis. The proposal should demonstrate a high level of detail, particularly in explaining and describing the methodology and data used. Additionally, it should include preliminary results.

The proposal must be submitted no later than 15 weeks after the discussion of the topic proposal and encompass the following:

- *Table of Contents*: How will your completed Master thesis be structured in terms of content? Provide a rough outline (approximately 2 levels of subheadings).
- *Problem Statement, Objective, and Relevance*: Based on your thesis idea, you will develop an introductory chapter that builds upon the thesis idea and incorporates key literature on the subject. If you have already defined the boundaries of your work in the thesis idea, this part can in general be used similarly. Otherwise, your supervisor may request you to establish the boundaries. In addition to the introduction, it is common to have a separate chapter that dives deeper into the main theories and relevant literature.
- *Methodology*: You have formally outlined the methodology established during the topic idea discussion and completed the methodology chapter. Describe the methodology in an applied and precise manner. This entails providing detailed descriptions of the data used (e.g., "continuous weekly returns of the return index for individual SPI stocks in CHF" rather than simply "stock returns").
- *Data*: You have obtained the data from the sources listed in the topic idea and described them in a separate chapter (descriptive statistics).
- *Results*: Present initial findings from your empirical analysis, such as the results of your main regression analysis, and discuss them.

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<sup>4</sup> If there are existing studies with high similarity to what you are planning, you have to explicitly define the differences. This is particularly important for if such similar theses have been submitted at the IFM already. Write down where the differences are and where you are adding value with your work.

- **References:** While your reference list is not yet completely finalized, as you have made significant progress in the introductory chapters, it already includes the majority of your sources. Additionally, since you have practically completed the methodology chapter (subject to revisions based on feedback from your supervisor and minor adjustments), the literature pertaining to the methodology is also included.

The submission of the proposal must occur no later than 15 weeks after the discussion of the thesis idea. The submission should include the proposal as well as all the data and codes generated.

If your proposal clearly fails to meet the aforementioned requirements, the supervisor reserves the right to decide whether the Master thesis can proceed or if it needs to be terminated prematurely.

## 5. Master Thesis

The proposal determines the content of your thesis to a large extent. Besides the content, reader friendliness is the second important quality characteristic of your text. It is therefore necessary that you have a central theme throughout your work. Structure your work in a clear and comprehensive manner and guide the reader from section to section. Ehrenberg's five rules should help you to reach this goal:

„1. *Start at the End.* We usually write papers or reports in a historical way, finishing with our results and conclusions. But readers usually want to know our findings before learning how they were obtained. Technical reports and learned articles are not detective stories. We therefore should start at the end, giving our main results and conclusions first.

2. *Be Prepared to Revise.* Few people can write clearly without revision.

3. *Cut Down on Long Words.* Technical writing is often dense and heavy. It can be made more readable by using shorter sentences and fewer long words.

4. *Be Brief.* Brevity is best achieved by leaving things out. This works at all levels: sections, paragraphs, sentences, and words.<sup>5</sup>

5. *Think of the Reader.* We must consider what our readers will do with our report or paper. What will they want to communicate to others?”<sup>6</sup>

### 5.1 Structure of the thesis

Reader friendliness increases with a comprehensible division into chapters, sections and – if needed – deeper levels. Each chapter should show a similar depth of division. You are mostly

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<sup>5</sup> Your thesis should not exceed 35 pages (including tables and illustrations, but excluding the executive summary and indices).

<sup>6</sup> Ehrenberg (1982), p. 326.



free in choosing how to structure your thesis. However, there are some *formal elements* that it indispensably must contain:

- *Title page*: Use the title page provided in the IFM template. The text in squared brackets serves as place marker. Replace the relevant passages with your own, corresponding contents. Important: The disclaimer needs to be on the title page.
- *Executive summary*: Covering not more than two pages, the executive summary answers the following questions: What is done in this thesis? Why is it done? What are the results?
- *Table of contents with indication of page number*: The table of contents lists the thesis' chapters. It should not consist of more than three layers (chapters/sections/subsections). If necessary, it can contain the superordinate level used for dividing the thesis (e.g. "I Theory"; "II Empirical part").<sup>7</sup>
- *Lists of illustrations, tables and appendices*: If your thesis contains illustrations, tables and / or appendices, they need to be listed in their own, respective list (including page numbers).
- *Table of abbreviations*: List the technical abbreviations used in the thesis here.
- *Appendix*: Parts like mathematical derivations or extensive illustrations and tables can be placed here, since they would impair reader friendliness if they were placed in the main body of your work. Please add a number and a title to every appendix. Refer to the appendix in the corresponding part of your text. Long excerpts from easily available laws (e.g. OR), statistical yearbooks and entire magazine articles are not part of the appendix.
- *Bibliography*: List all sources used in your thesis here. Please refer to Ch. 6.2 for more detailed information.
- *Declaration of Authorship*: Copy the declaration of authorship from the "Reglement über das Bachelor- und Masterstudium und die Leistungskontrollen an der WISO-Fakultät" and paste it to the last page of your thesis. Sign the declaration and indicate the date.

Besides these formal elements, there is the *main body*, which is the core of your thesis. It should also follow a coherent structure, which is briefly explained in the following lines. It starts with an introduction chapter, similar to your proposal: The problem, the goals and the relevance of the thesis are described. You distinguish your work from existing literature, briefly explain your methodology and data, and provide the reader with an overview on the structure of your work. The introduction is followed by the main chapters (e.g. Literature analysis, Methodology, Data description, Empirical results). The main body ends with the closing chapter and the conclusion. The conclusion addresses questions such as "What are the main findings of the thesis?" or "What can be inferred from these results?". It also contains an outlook (What are possible

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<sup>7</sup> Use the decimal system with Arabic numerals to divide your text (cf. the division of this guideline as an example). For the segmentation of your text into different parts (e.g. Theory and Empiricy), you can use Roman numerals.

constraints that need to be considered when evaluating the results? What further questions are open for research in this area?).

*Illustrations and tables* must be numbered consecutively. A caption, description, and, if applicable, the source needs to be added (separate numbering for illustrations and for tables). It is crucial that illustrations and tables are mentioned and referred to in the text. Equations must be numbered and explained as well, but you do not need to add a caption.

## 5.2 Bibliography

In scientific publications, all sources used must be disclosed. The bibliography contains all the literature that you refer to in the text. Only use sources that you have read yourself. Avoid those only mentioned in other publications.

The bibliography is sorted alphabetically by author. Multiple works of the same author must be listed in chronological order, starting with the most recent publication. Should there be more than one publication of the same author in the same year, add a lower-case letter after the year (e.g. Loderer, C., 2002a; Loderer, C., 2002b). To allow the reader to clearly distinguish between the cited publications, the letters are also used when there is a reference to a source in the text. More than two authors are separated by commata: “Studies such as Coughlan and Schmidt (1985), Warner, Watts, and Wruck (1988), Weisbach (1988), Jensen and Murphy (1990), and Murphy and Zimmerman (1991) find...”. Multiple citations in brackets are separated by semicolons: “... as shown in other studies (see, e.g., Smith and Watts, 1992; Lewellen, Loderer, and Martin, 1987)...”. If a source does not have an identifiable author, use the abbreviation “Anon.” (“Anonymous”) and add it to the bibliography under the letter “A”.

Different types of literature (such as monographs, collected editions, journals, unpublished work or websites) are listed in different ways. Some examples:<sup>8</sup>

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Monographs:         | Hawawini, G., Swary, I., 1990. Mergers and acquisitions in the U.S. banking industry: Evidence from the capital markets. North-Holland, Amsterdam.               |
| Collected editions: | Brunner, K., Meltzer, A., 1990. Money supply. In: Friedman, B.M., Hahn, F. (Eds.), Handbook of Monetary Economics, Vol. 1. North-Holland, Amsterdam, S. 357-396. |
| Journals:           | Griffiths, W., Judge, G., 1992. Testing and estimating location vectors when the error covariance matrix is unknown. Journal of Econometrics 54, S. 121-138.     |
| Unpublished work:   | Hermalin, B., Weisbach, M., 1995. Endogenously chosen boards and their monitoring of the CEO. Unpublished working paper. University of California, Berkeley.     |

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<sup>8</sup> Citation according to the rules of the Journal of Financial Economics.

- Websites: UBS AG, 2002. Fund glossary, [www.ubs.com/e/investmentfunds/switzerland/glossary](http://www.ubs.com/e/investmentfunds/switzerland/glossary), 30. September 2008.
- Newspaper articles: Städeli, M., 2011. Schwanger, krank, alt: ungenügend! NZZ am Sonntag, 6. Februar, S. 31.

In case the place of publication is unknown, the abbreviation “n.p.” is inserted. If there are more than three places of publication, only the first one is listed and “et al.” is added; additional places are not listed separately. If the date of publication is unknown, the abbreviation “n.d.” is used.

### 5.3 Citation

All parts that are based on external sources literally or analogously have to be indicated directly in the text or marked by a footnote (cf. the Declaration of Authorship). Your references have to be exact enough to enable the reader to easily find the mentioned passage in the text.<sup>9</sup> It is important to be consistent in differentiating between literal and analogous quotations. In detail:

- Taking over quotes from external sources as they are is a *literal adoption*. Differentiate such passages from your own text by using quotation marks. In certain cases, it might be convenient to cut off single sentences or words from a quote. This must be indicated by three dots in square brackets. At the end of the quote (after the punctuation mark), add a footnote with the reference. Indicate the page, on which the text passage can be found. For example:

“Der in derartigen Modellen unterstellte freie Zugang zu Fremdkapital [...] ist für schweizerische Unternehmen aber ausgeprägt unrealistisch.“<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Loderer (2002), p. 24.

- Your sources of knowledge need to be disclosed even if it's only an *analogous adoption*. This is e.g. the case if you reconstruct other authors' lines of thought in your own words. Analogous quotation can be achieved through a remark directly in the text or through a footnote. Normally, analogous citations are indicated in the text by adding the author and the year of publication in brackets after the text passage. Another way is to write the source in square brackets. See the following examples:

According to Loderer (2002), rising indebtedness is accompanied by a higher equity beta.

Rising indebtedness is accompanied by a higher equity beta [cf. Loderer (2002)].

- In cases of *additional information*, a footnote is inserted after the last sentence for citation. In contrast to literal adoption, you amend the quotation in the footnote with the additional information. As for example:

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<sup>9</sup> One remark concerning the page indication: If you refer to more than one page, add “f.” for one following page or “ff.” for multiple following pages.

<sup>15</sup> According to Loderer (2002), rising indebtedness leads to a higher equity beta.

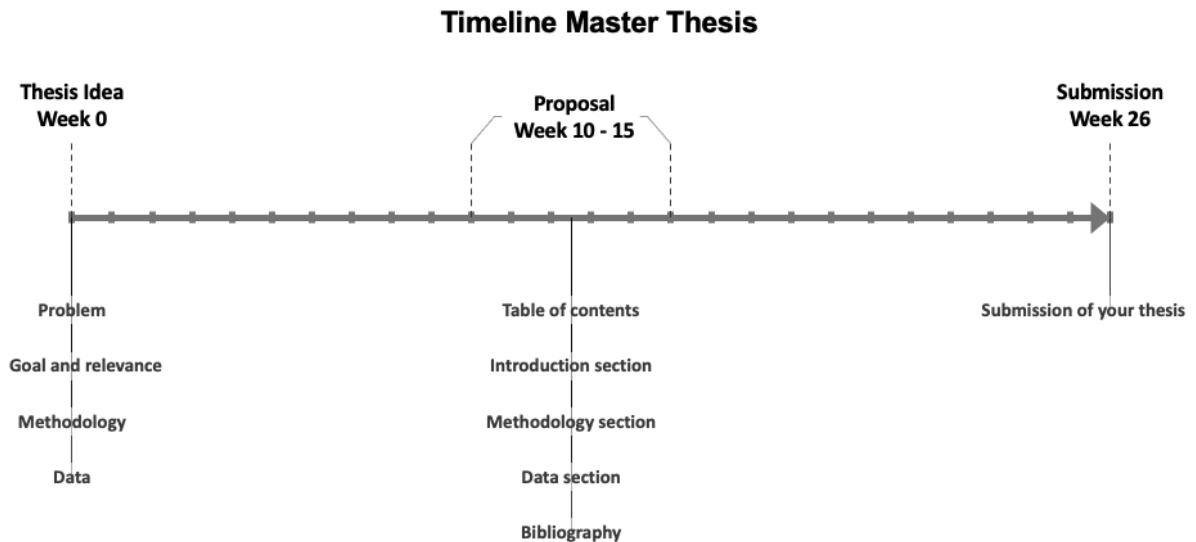
## 5.4 Layout

Please use the following layout guidelines:

- Template: IFM layout (<http://www.ifm.unibe.ch/studium/abschlussarbeiten/>)
- Format: DIN A4; one-sided.
- Margin: 3 cm on the left hand side, 2 cm on the right-hand side.
- Line spacing: 1.5 lines for the text, 1 line for the footnotes.
- Font: <Times New Roman> for text and footnotes, <Arial bold> oder <Arial Narrow bold> for the titles.
- Font size: Size <12> for the text and size <10> for the footnotes. Titles vary between size <14> and size <10>, depending on their level.
- Accentuation: Use *italic* for accentuation. Please refrain from using underlined since it hampers readability.

## 6. Thesis Submission

The submission of the Master thesis must take place within a maximum of 26 weeks from the discussion of the topic idea. The proposal must be submitted within a maximum of 15 weeks. If the proposal significantly fails to meet the requirements mentioned in Chapter 4, the supervising person has the discretion to decide whether the Master thesis will continue or be terminated prematurely.



Please submit the final version of your thesis as follows:

- *One printed and bound copy of the thesis.*
- A digital version of your *data*: The collection contains the complete thesis in digital form (Word/TeX and PDF file), all the data you based your calculations on (Excel, Access, Stata, ... files) as well as all your econometric calculations (Excel, codes, ...). The data collection can be handed over to the mentor by email, file exchange services (e.g., UniBE campus cloud), or using a USB-stick.

Your work will be reviewed and corrected at the institute, and your supervisor will provide feedback on your thesis. Generally, there will be no further corrections to the work. However, if the execution of the methodology discussed in the disposition is inadequate and/or contains major errors, the institute may request corrections to be made.

## 7. Evaluation, Academic Integrity, Personal Contribution

The main basis for assessment is the submitted Master thesis. While the proposal and the process leading up to the submission are not evaluated separately, they may have an impact on the final grade. At the end of your thesis, you will be required to sign a declaration of academic integrity. If you violate this declaration, the institute will follow the guidelines set by the University of Bern regarding procedures for handling plagiarism. In minor cases, this may result in a grade of 1 and a reprimand from the dean. In severe cases, the institute will file a request with the university administration to exclude the plagiarist from further studies.

The use of AI-based tools (such as *ChatGPT*) is permitted for language refinement, but not for creation of content. Elements adopted from such tools have to be declared, including the technology and the prompts used<sup>10</sup>. If you intend to use AI-tools, please be aware that an adequate amount of your personal contribution has to remain. Obvious or inappropriate use of AI-tools (e.g. unscientific language) has an impact on the grade and we reserve the right to assess your thesis as not independently written in extreme cases. If you are using Artificial Intelligence for the composition of your thesis, please use the following, adapted declaration of academic integrity:

*«Ich erkläre hiermit, dass ich diese Arbeit selbstständig verfasst und keine anderen als die angegebenen Quellen benutzt habe. Alle Stellen, die wörtlich oder sinngemäss aus Quellen entnommen wurden, habe ich als solche gekennzeichnet. Als Hilfsmittel habe ich Künstliche Intelligenz verwendet. Sämtliche Elemente, die ich von einer Künstlichen Intelligenz übernommen habe, werden als solche deklariert und es finden sich die genaue Bezeichnung der verwendeten Technologie sowie die Angabe der «Prompts», die ich dafür eingesetzt habe. Mir ist bekannt, dass andernfalls die Arbeit mit der Note 1 bewertet wird bzw. der Senat gemäss Artikel 36 Absatz 1 Buchstabe r des Gesetzes vom 5. September 1996 über die Universität zum Entzug des auf Grund dieser Arbeit verliehenen Titels berechtigt ist.*

*Für die Zwecke der Begutachtung und der Überprüfung der Einhaltung der Selbständigkeitserklärung bzw. der Reglemente betreffend Plagiate erteile ich der Universität Bern das Recht, die dazu erforderlichen Personendaten zu bearbeiten und Nutzungshandlungen vorzunehmen, insbesondere die schriftliche Arbeit zu vervielfältigen und dauerhaft in einer Datenbank zu speichern sowie diese zur Überprüfung von Arbeiten Dritter zu verwenden oder hierzu zur Verfügung zu stellen.»<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>10</sup> The [Leitfaden «Aus KI zitieren»](#) from the University of Basel provides guidance on the citation of AI-tools

<sup>11</sup> [FAQ zur Verwendung von KI gestützten Hilfsmitteln in der Lehre](#)

## Appendix

### I. Collection of useful links

*Note:* Some of these links can only be accessed within the university network or through a „Virtual Private Network“ (VPN; check [http://www.unibe.ch/university/campus\\_and\\_infrastructure/rund\\_um\\_computer/internetzugang/access\\_to\\_internal\\_resources\\_via\\_vpn/index\\_eng.html](http://www.unibe.ch/university/campus_and_infrastructure/rund_um_computer/internetzugang/access_to_internal_resources_via_vpn/index_eng.html)).

*Hint:* Login with the VPN from the start and use Google Scholar, the digital journal library or the digital library of journals („elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek) or EBSCO to find the articles you are looking for.

#### Literature

EBSCO	<a href="http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&amp;profile=ehost&amp;defaultdb=buh">http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&amp;profile=ehost&amp;defaultdb=buh</a>	Data base for scientific publications Choose the „Business Source Premier“ data base
Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek	<a href="http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/">rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/</a>	Overview on the journals to which the University of Bern has online access (incl. links)
Factiva	<a href="http://global.factiva.com">global.factiva.com</a>	Data base for newspapers and magazines
Google Scholar	<a href="http://scholar.google.com">scholar.google.com</a>	Search engine for scientific publications
JSTOR	<a href="http://www.jstor.org">www.jstor.org</a>	I.a. Journal of Finance from 2003 onwards
LexisNexis	<a href="http://www.lexisnexis.com/de/business">www.lexisnexis.com/de/business</a>	Data base for newspapers and magazines
Oxford Journals	<a href="http://www.oxfordjournals.org">www.oxfordjournals.org</a>	Publisher of academic journals (incl. Review of Financial Studies)
Science Direct	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/">http://www.sciencedirect.com/</a>	Publisher of academic journals (incl. Elsevier, Journal of Financial Economics)

Social Science Research Network (SSRN)	<a href="http://www.ssrn.com">www.ssrn.com</a>	Data base for scientific publications Caution: Unrefereed!
Universitätsbibliothek Bern	<a href="http://www.unibe.ch/universitaet/dienstleistungen/universitaetsbibliothek/ub">http://www.unibe.ch/universitaet/dienstleistungen/universitaetsbibliothek/ub</a>	Public scientific library of the Canton of Bern
Wiley InterScience	<a href="http://www3.interscience.wiley.com">www3.interscience.wiley.com</a>	Publisher of academic journals (ex Blackwell; incl. Journal of Finance)
<b>Data</b>		
Aktienführer	<a href="http://www.fuw.ch/aktienfuehrer/">http://www.fuw.ch/aktienfuehrer/</a>	Guide for Swiss stocks. At the IFM available with data from 1989 onwards
Bank of England	<a href="http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics">www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics</a>	Finance data and banking statistics
Bundesamt für Statistik	<a href="http://www.bfs.admin.ch">www.bfs.admin.ch</a>	Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland
Census Bureau	<a href="https://www.census.gov/">https://www.census.gov/</a>	Census database of the US
FRED Economic Data	<a href="https://fred.stlouisfed.org/">https://fred.stlouisfed.org/</a>	Macro data base of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
International Monetary Fund	<a href="http://www.imf.org/en/Data">http://www.imf.org/en/Data</a>	Data base of the International Monetary Fund
Oanda	<a href="http://www.oanda.com">www.oanda.com</a>	Current and historical exchange rates (incl. Time series)
Sachverständigenrat zur Begutachtung der Gesamtwirtschaftlichen Entwicklung	<a href="http://www.sachverstaendigenrat-wirtschaft.de">http://www.sachverstaendigenrat-wirtschaft.de</a>	Data about business cycles, focused on Germany (contains international data as well)



Schweizer Wirtschafts CD	<a href="http://www.swcd.ch">www.swcd.ch</a>	Companies and people of the Swiss economy (CD is available at the IFM)
Schweizerische Nationalbank	<a href="http://www.snb.ch">www.snb.ch</a>	Data relevant to monetary policy of the Swiss National Bank
SIX	<a href="http://www.six-group.com/exchanges">www.six-group.com/exchanges</a>	Swiss Stock Exchange in Zürich
Thomson Datastream	<a href="http://extranet.datastream.com">extranet.datastream.com</a>	Data base with financial data
USA	<a href="https://www.usa.gov/">https://www.usa.gov/</a>	Data on the US economy
World Bank	<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/">http://data.worldbank.org/</a>	Data base of the World Bank (e.g. about global economic data)

### Further information

Econometric Resources on the Internet	<a href="http://www.oswego.edu/~kane/econometrics">www.oswego.edu/~kane/econometrics</a>	Link collection with information on econometric methodology
IFM-Layout	<a href="http://www.ifm.unibe.ch/studies/bachelor_master_theses/">http://www.ifm.unibe.ch/studies/bachelor_master_theses/</a>	MS Word template for the compilation of theses at the IFM
Kurt Schmidheiny's Short Guides	<a href="http://kurt.schmidheiny.name/teaching">kurt.schmidheiny.name/teaching</a>	Guides for several software packages
Resources for Economists on the Internet	<a href="http://www.rfe.org">www.rfe.org</a>	Comprehensive collection of links
Stata Tutorial	<a href="http://data.princeton.edu/stata/">http://data.princeton.edu/stata/</a>	Stata Tutorial Princeton
Stata Tutorial	<a href="http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata">www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata</a>	Stata Tutorial UCLA

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StatSoft Textbooks	<a href="http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/stathome.html">www.statsoft.com/textbook/stathome.html</a>	Explanations for statistical methods
Tips for Authors	<a href="http://jfe.rochester.edu/tips.htm">jfe.rochester.edu/tips.htm</a>	Tips for authors of scientific texts
VPN Universität Bern	<a href="http://www.unibe.ch/universitaet/campus__und__infrastruktur/rund_um_computer/internetzugang/zugang_auf_interne_ressourcen_mit_vpn">http://www.unibe.ch/universitaet/campus__und__infrastruktur/rund_um_computer/internetzugang/zugang_auf_interne_ressourcen_mit_vpn</a>	Software that enables you to access internal resources of the university from you private computer
Writing Tips	<a href="http://www.leighthompson.com/index.php/component/content/article/21-academic-careers/44-tips-on-how-to-write-a-paper-for-an-academic-journal">http://www.leighthompson.com/index.php/component/content/article/21-academic-careers/44-tips-on-how-to-write-a-paper-for-an-academic-journal</a>	Tips for authors of scientific texts

## II. Journal Ranking

To estimate the significance of a scientific study, it is helpful to know the quality of the journal it was published in. There is a variety of rankings and ratings concerned with Finance journals. As an example, you can find the following excerpt:

Maberly, E.D. und Pierce, R.M., 2007: "Citation Patterns within the Leading Top-Tier Finance Journals, Implications for Journal Rankings and Other Issues". Monash University und Deakin University, Australia.

Additionally, you can find a continuously updated ranking of Finance journals here:

<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2003>