

I. Structure of the Thesis

1. What is thesis?

- 1) An academic research which investigates causal relationship between variables theoretically and empirically as a partial fulfillment of academic degrees such as B.A., M.A. or Ph.D.
- 2) Thesis is more comprehensive than academic papers published in academic journals..

2. Structure of the thesis

<Abstract>

1) Introduction

- ① Purpose of the thesis
- ② Methodology
 - Theoretical approach
 - Empirical approach
 - Case and other approaches
- ③ Limitations of the thesis

2) Review of the literature related to thesis topic.

- ① Theoretical studies
- ② Empirical studies
- ③ Case and other studies
- ④ Summary of the past studies

3) Models and analysis

- ① Theoretical models and discussions
- ② Econometric models and discussions
- ③ Analytical methods
- ④ Interpretation of the results and comparison with the past studies
- ⑤ Policy implications

4) Conclusions

- ① Summary of the results
- ② Limitations of the study

<Appendix>

<References>

3. Things to keep in mind*

- 1) Pick a general subject you care about, one you want to explore in your major field.
- 2) Narrow your topic to a manageable size.
- 3) Study the areas which are directly and indirectly related to the topic.

- 4) Make sure you actually have a thesis, that is, a central argument or hypothesis.
 - 5) Compare your argument with others and show why yours is best in theories, analytical methods, empirical findings and policy implications.
 - 6) Frame your thesis in several coherent sections with smooth transitions.
 - 7) If you use case studies, explain why you have chosen these particular cases.
 - 8) Explain the limits of any generalizations you develop or test in answering the following questions:
 - ① What are your research questions?
 - ② Why are they important?
 - ③ What are the existing answers?
 - ④ What are your answers?
 - ⑤ How can you show that you are right and others are wrong?
 - 9) Write and rewrite clearly and succinctly in the active voice, using plain English with quotations and footnotes.
 - 10) Follow the GSIS thesis format guidelines.
- * Based on “How to write a Thesis,” by Carles Lipson, University of Chicago, 2005

II. Guidelines on Thesis Writing

1. Introduction

Writing a thesis is an opportunity to use your knowledge and your learning from your two years at GSIS on a topic that is of special interest to you. Thesis writing is challenging, deserving high intellectual commitment and intellectual stamina. Thesis writing goes through different stages, evolving from your initial choice of subject, finding your resources, your creative and thinking stage, the organizational stage and then the hard graft ‘writing up’ through to your thesis defense. At the end you will have written a solid academic document and you will have earned a personal and professional achievement. Writing a thesis in GSIS is your way of combining all the academic skills you have learnt at GSIS, and out of this you are writing a piece of very substantial work to be read by fellow students, academics, researchers, and policy makers. Writing a thesis requires specific academic skills and these are skills and points of advice to be outlined over the next few pages.

2. Preparation for Thesis Writing

During your first two semesters at GSIS you will already have an idea of the kind of topic you would like to focus. On a thesis allows you to look at a topic in greater depth and you have a degree of flexibility with this choice. The choice is yours, but it is always a good idea to choose a topic that includes the following questions to consider:

- 1) Ask other students who have completed a thesis about their experience, what were the positive benefits of writing a thesis, not simply in terms of your degree but also as intellectual satisfaction and the sense of achievement. Read previous theses in a related area.
- 2) Ask yourself if the topic you are thinking of choosing is a topic you have already been taught or a topic you have presented in class. What marks or grades did you get? Can you imagine