

Thesis Guide

MA in International Relations 2023

Content Requirements

By writing the final paper, the student proves his/her ability to define relevant IR issues fitting into academic debate and analyze the motives and actions of the actors involved. Multidisciplinary approach to the problem defined is an essential requirement of the MA thesis. The thesis should prove that the student is able to use the appropriate qualitative or quantitative research methods or both (mixed methods) that can best analyze the given IR issue. A research question(s) has(have) to be formulated in the introductory part and answered in the conclusion.

The final paper is written during the thesis writing seminar launched for the 3rd and 4th semester. Students are continuously assisted by the professor of their chosen thesis writing seminar.

Structure of the Thesis

- Title and title page
- Table of contents – 3 levels break-down with numbering
- Introduction – 5–10%
 - Defining the topic
 - Why did you choose this topic? (Currency, lack of research, personal motivation?)
 - Why is the topic relevant?
 - Mentioning the most vital sources (Primary and secondary, Why these sources? Referring to the main ideas of these main authors)
 - Posing the research question – with reflecting on the main sources
 - Describing research methods
 - Presenting the structure of the thesis
 - Dealing with limitations: What will the thesis cover, and what will not cover? Why?
- Main Body: developing arguments, dealing with main topics - 80%
 - The thesis itself
 - Try to fit it into 4–5 chapters if possible
 - Break it down into subchapters
- Conclusion – 10-15%
 - Answering your research question in detail!
 - What did you (NOT) find answers to?
 - Main findings and results

- Limitations, prospects for further research
- Recommendations (optional)
- References – Only cited sources!
- List of tables, images (optional)
- Annexes (optional)

Formal Requirements

Length: 135 000 – 175 000 characters

- Spaces included
- Only the body, excluding references and annexes

The thesis should be printed with adequate (2,5 cm) margins.

You should use font „Times New Roman” size 12 pt, line spacing 1.5.

Footnotes should be at the bottom of the page, not at the end of chapters or the thesis.

Referencing styles: Use the Harvard or Oxford styles

Cover: The cover and the inner cover should look like as illustrated below:

Cover	Inner cover
<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Author's name</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Year</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Corvinus University of Budapest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Title</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Subtitle</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Author's Name</p> <p style="text-align: right;">International Relations MA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Supervisor: name</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Year</p>

Presentation of the Thesis

Students are required to make a short presentation of the thesis when defending it focusing on the research question(s), the method(s) applied and the results. At the defense students should also answer the questions given by the opponents and/or members of the final exam committee.

Appendix I. Evaluation Criteria

The reviewers of the thesis

- will evaluate the thesis using the criteria listed below
- will also prepare a written evaluation of the thesis
- will formulate questions that should be addressed during the oral defense of the thesis

Criteria of acceptance

Criteria	Passed	Failed
The thesis does not contain part(s) based on other sources, which are not referenced properly.		
The thesis does not contain long blocks where the Author references one sole source through several pages.		

In case the Opponent deems that the Thesis does not meet any of the above criteria, the Thesis cannot be accepted.

1. Topic selection (total 4 points)

- The topic is up-to-date, important, relevant. (0-2 points)
- The discussion of the topic is original or partly original, the topic is not overly explored in the professional literature. (0-2 points)

2. Aim, theoretical background, methodology (total 12 points)

- The Introduction clearly defines the aim and the research question. (0-4 points)
- In the Introduction, the Author discusses the most important sources (primary or secondary sources, key thinkers). (0-2 points)

- The Author outlines the structure and logic of the research. (0-3 points)
- The Introduction contains the necessary delimitations and research methods. (0-3 points)

3. Methods (total 10 points)

- The applied research methods are critically chosen by the Author. The chosen methods are meaningfully applied in the thesis paper. (0-4 points)
- The Author detailed the chosen method(s) appropriately. (0-3 points)
- The Author applied the chosen method(s) consistently throughout the thesis. (0-3 points)

4. Academic quality (total 16 points)

- The thesis is appropriate in terms of overall volume, as well as the structure and length of the chapters. (0-4 points)
- The structure and logic are clear, they support the readers' understanding well. The discussion of the subtopics and the weight given to them in the text are appropriate. (0-4 points)
- The Author analyzed the chosen topic appropriately and reached the aim of the research. (0-4 points)
- The Author's conclusions, his/her own critical evaluation are clear. The conclusions and evaluations are based on the analysis. (0-4 points)

5. Review and utilization of the relevant professional literature (9 points)

- The thesis reviews the most significant professional literature. (0-3 points)
- The literature review contains the Author's own views and position. (0-3 points)
- The Author analyzes and assesses well the most significant professional literature. (0-3 points)

6. Language and style of the Thesis, references (total 6 points)

- The language and style of the paper, including use of terminology and spelling, is of high quality. (0-3 points)
- Referencing is professional. (0-3 points)

Final assessment (min. 250 words)

Please consider the above evaluation points (1-6) when writing your assessment and reflect especially on those which resulted in the loss of points.

Total 57 points

Grade points/grades

51–57 points 5

44–50 points 4

38–43 points 3

30–37 points 2

0–29 points 1