



## EVALUATION MATRIX FOR MASTER'S THESES

Master's theses shall conform to good scientific practice according to the guidelines of The Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity.

Please note that the Master's thesis will be evaluated as an entity, but the importance of different sections may change.

	Pass (1)	Satisfactory (2)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)	Excellent (5)
<b>Research Theme and Assignment</b>	The research assignment is limited, conventional and rather unambitious. The presentation and selection criteria are inadequate. Connections to earlier research in the field are rather scarce. The objectives of the assignment are non-specific.	The research assignment is rather concise or conventional, but sufficiently ambitious, or its presentation and selection criteria are superficial. Connection to earlier research in the field is scarce or inadequate. The objectives of the assignment are non-specific.	The research assignment is sufficiently extensive and ambitious. It is presented and the selection criteria are justifiable. Connection to earlier research in the field is adequate. The objectives of the assignment are presented sufficiently clearly.	The research assignment is ambitious as well as relevant and both its presentation and justification are clear. It is properly connected with earlier research in the field. The objectives are well presented and the research assignment is motivated.	The research assignment is both ambitious and theoretically, practically or socially relevant. It is excellently presented and justified. The work is expertly connected with earlier research in the field. The objectives are very clearly presented and their selection is justified and expertly motivated.
<b>Research Problems and Questions</b>	The research problems are rather unambitious. The research questions are derived from the research problems but could be substantially better defined or formulated. The research frame could be clearer and more coherent.	The research problems are sufficiently ambitious and justifiable. The research questions are derived from the research problems, but could be more properly defined. The research frame is fairly logical and clear.	The research problems are ambitious and well justified. The research questions are derived from the research problems and are clearly formulated and practically defined. The research frame is logical and clear.	The research problems are ambitious and expertly justified. The research questions are clearly derived from the research problems and they are very well defined and formulated. The research frame is very logical and clear..	The research problems are very ambitious, innovative and excellently justified. The research questions are creditably derived from the research problems and are excellently formulated and defined. The research frame is clear and shows creative and innovative thinking.

<p><b>Research Frame of Reference</b></p>	<p>The research frame of reference is too concise or obviously too extensive or very incoherent. It is mainly based on inappropriately chosen, e.g. secondhand or random, sources. Description or definition of essential concepts is inadequate or vague. As a whole, the theoretical background is disjointed and its connection with the research assignment is weak.</p>	<p>The research frame of reference is concise, too extensive or slightly incoherent. It is mainly based on relevant sources but may include inappropriately chosen or redundant sources. The essential concepts are described or defined but may be used incoherently. The theoretical background supports the research to a certain extent and is connected with the research assignment.</p>	<p>The research frame of reference demonstrates a mastery of the field's essential theories. It is, for the most part, successfully defined and the sources are appropriately chosen. The sources and theories are clearly, but somewhat declaratorily, presented. The essential concepts are described or defined and used coherently and correctly. As a whole, the theoretical background supports the research and is clearly connected with the research assignment.</p>	<p>The theoretical frame of reference is quite extensive and well defined. It demonstrates a good mastery of the theories. The sources are versatile and expertly chosen. Different viewpoints are integrated and sources are discussed in depth. Concepts are used with skill. The theoretical background connects very well with the research assignment.</p>	<p>The research frame of reference is either extensive or profound and justifiably defined. It demonstrates an excellent mastery of the theoretical frame of reference. The sources are expertly chosen and they are used insightfully. The work is evaluative as well as reflective and concepts are used insightfully. The theoretical background is excellently integrated with the research assignment.</p>
<p><b>Material and Methods</b></p>	<p>The selected material and/or the research method are not in accord with the research assignment. The methods are presented, but rather superficially. The selection and justification of the method and the definition and presentation of the material are obviously inadequate.</p>	<p>The selected material and/or the research methods are in sufficient accord with the research assignment. The research methods are described but the presentation is somewhat declaratory. The selection and justification of the method as well as the definition and presentation of the material have some shortcomings.</p>	<p>The selected material and/or research methods are sufficiently in accord with the research assignment, which enables answering the research questions properly. The presentation and discussion of the research methods demonstrate a mastery of the field. The methodological choices are justified. The selection and definition of the material are justifiable. Both the material and the method of collecting it are documented in sufficient detail.</p>	<p>The selected material and/or research methods are in accord with the research assignment. The material is sufficiently extensive and it may be ambitious or creatively chosen. The presentation and discussion of the research methods demonstrate a good mastery of the field. The methodological choices are properly described and justified. The material is expertly selected and presented and the method of collecting it is documented in detail.</p>	<p>The selected material and/or research methods are in excellent accord with the research assignment and show a profound understanding of the research problem. The use and discussion of the research methods demonstrate excellent proficiency in the field. The methodological choices and their implications are expertly discussed. The thesis may show new ideas for developing methods. The material is creditably selected and presented.</p>

<b>Analysis</b>	The analysis demonstrates an approximate mastery of the chosen method. As such, it is reliable but mechanical, superficial or inaccurate.	The analysis demonstrates a mediocre mastery of the chosen method and is reliable but may have some shortcomings in accuracy.	The analysis demonstrates a good mastery of the chosen method, being both accurate and reliable.	The analysis demonstrates a very good mastery of the chosen method, being systematic, accurate and reliable.	The analysis demonstrates an excellent mastery of the chosen method, being insightful, systematic, accurate and reliable.
<b>Findings and Conclusions</b>	The findings are logically presented, but they are inadequately discussed. The research provides answers to the questions presented but the presentation may be incoherent or declaratory. The presentation and discussion of the findings are ambiguously or inadequately connected to the theoretical framework. Discussion and conclusions are scarce, and they are superficial or mechanical. Some of the propositions and/or implications are not justified.	The findings are logically presented and they are discussed. The research provides answers to the questions presented and the findings have been aspired to be connected with the theoretical framework as well as, to some extent, earlier research. There are some conclusions and discussion but they are rather disjointed or coincidental. Some of the propositions and/or implications are sparsely justified.	The findings are logically presented and their relevance and validity are discussed. The research provides good answers to the questions presented and the interpretations of the findings are fairly well connected with the theoretical framework and earlier research. The discussion and conclusions are good. The reliability of the research and/or the research process are assessed to some extent. The propositions and/or implications are justified. The research contributes new information or a new perspective on the research in the field.	The findings are logically presented and expertly discussed. The research provides answers to the questions presented and the discussion is well connected with the theoretical framework and earlier research. The reliability of the research and/or the research process are expertly assessed. The findings and/or implications are properly justified. The research makes a theoretical or empirical contribution to the research in the field.	The presentation and discussion of the findings are competent and insightful. The research provides excellent answers to the questions presented and the interpretation of the findings is very expertly connected to the theoretical framework and earlier research. The reliability and/or the research process are expertly and profoundly assessed. The findings and/or implications are excellently justified. The research makes an obvious theoretical and/or empirical contribution to the research in the field.

<p><b>Thesis as a Text</b></p>	<p>The reporting of the research has structural, linguistic or stylistic shortcomings, which impair the overall coherence. The use of sources is in accordance with good scientific practice. Using references has shortcomings.</p>	<p>The research is clearly reported but its structure, style or linguistic form may have minor shortcomings. The use of sources is in accordance with good scientific practice. Using references may have shortcomings.</p>	<p>The research is clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are flawless. The use of sources is in accordance with good scientific practice. Using references is conventional.</p>	<p>The research is very clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are very good. The use of sources is in accordance with good scientific practice. Using references is almost flawless.</p>	<p>The research is remarkably clearly and coherently reported. Both the linguistic form and style are excellent. Sources are used with skill. Using references is faultless.</p>
<p><b>Process Management and Independent Input</b> <b>(evaluated by the supervisor; the planning of the research process and time management are evaluated of these started after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014)</b></p>	<p>The research process and time management show obvious shortcomings. The candidate's initiative, input and ability to seek for guidance and receive feedback were adequate.</p>	<p>The research process has progressed more or less according to plan. Time management may show shortcomings. The candidate's initiative, input and ability to seek for guidance and receive feedback were satisfactory</p>	<p>The research process has progressed on schedule and according to plan. The candidate's initiative, input and ability to seek for guidance and receive feedback were good.</p>	<p>The research process has progressed efficiently and according to plan. The candidate's initiative, input and ability to seek for guidance and receive feedback were very good</p>	<p>The research process has progressed remarkably according to plan and very efficiently. The candidate's initiative, input and ability to seek for guidance and receive feedback were excellent.</p>