

Master's Thesis Research Project Report Evaluation Process

STUDENT VERSION

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Introduction:

The Global MBA (GMBA) faculty within Doshisha University's Graduate School of Business are committed to providing our students with a fair, transparent and professionally managed evaluation process for their Master's Thesis and Research Project Report efforts. Towards this end, these evaluation criteria are meant to serve as guides for our review and assessment of the quality of work and level of thoughtful inquiry each individual student has invested into their graduation research report. The GMBA faculty have agreed to use this assessment framework to judge the overall, holistic body of work presented by the student, and because of this, they will not attach separate grades to the oral or written materials.

Evaluation Criteria for Master's Thesis and Research Project Report:

Overview:

The Master Thesis (MT) serves as a critical project that synthesizes and applies the comprehensive knowledge and skills acquired throughout the graduate program, challenging students to conduct in-depth research on a topic of their choice. Through the process of developing and completing their MT, students learn to critically engage with literature, employ rigorous research methodologies, and contribute original insights to their field of study, thereby enhancing their expertise and preparing them for advanced professional or academic pursuits.

The aim of the Research Project Report (RPR) is to enable students to apply their comprehensive knowledge and skills to address complex issues in their field of study, demonstrating the ability to conduct in-depth research and analysis. Through this process, students learn to critically evaluate existing literature, develop and test hypotheses using appropriate methodologies, and effectively communicate their findings and implications. This hands-on experience not only enhances their research capabilities but also prepares them for future academic or professional challenges by fostering problem-solving skills and practical application of theoretical concepts.

The MT and RPR are evaluated as follows:

- 1) Knowledge, ability and skills
- 2) Critical thinking, judgement and expressive skills
- 3) Subjectivity, diversity and collaboration

Evaluation Scores:

Each Master's Thesis or Research Project Report will be scored by a panel of three faculty members, which includes the main supervisor plus an additional two faculty members who have, in principal, been chosen for their expertise or knowledge in the area of research conducted by the student. Upon objective evaluation of both the written report and oral defense as a holistic body of work, students will receive one of the following results:

Pass (70 points or higher)

This paper meets all requirements set forth in the guidelines for a final research report. Although there may be minor adjustments or changes required, these changes relate to issues such as punctuation, spelling or referencing, and do not stand in the way of the student receiving a passing grade for this work.

Minor Revision (Less than 70 points, but can be modified within 2 weeks)

This paper does not yet meet all requirements set forth in the guidelines for an acceptable final Research Project Report or Master's Thesis. However, with minor revisions made the paper and overall work will be deemed eligible to pass. Required changes are not expected to take more than the required time for final resubmission (i.e. two weeks) as outlined in the finalized schedule for resubmission of such papers.

Note:

While no strict "floor" will be given to works that fall into this category, in principal, the lowest reasonable score to qualify for Minor Revision is considered to be 60 points.

Minor Revisions may include:

1. Formatting or structural changes to the body of the paper
2. Incomplete or missing references, or other oversights related to referencing
3. Argument Structure
4. Other changes deemed necessary to achieve a passing score.

Major Revisions (less than 70 points, and require significant changes expected to take

longer than 2 weeks)

In its current form, this paper does not meet the requirements for an acceptable research report. The revisions stipulated by the review committee are major, and will require a significant amount of work prior to resubmission. This paper is not eligible for resubmission with the current academic semester, and will only be eligible for resubmission next semester at the earliest.

Evaluation Process Flow:

The basic process that we will follow in evaluating student research reports will be as follows:

Phase I: Master's Thesis and Research Project Report I, II & III

Within this phase, students will work together with their supervisors to complete their research and report writing efforts to reach the level that the main supervisor feels confident that the student has a chance of passing the defense of their written and presented work. The basis for this decision will be the results of all previous workshops, individual and group consultations, and most importantly, the final rough draft submitted by the student to the main supervisor.

Phase 2: Before the Defense

After the successful submission of the research report, the three faculty members assigned to the student's review panel will independently assess the submitted materials.

Phase 3: Assessment Decision

The three member faculty panel will meet and agree to the final assessment result for each student's performance. If necessary, the main supervisor will collect all revision requests from faculty panel members, and provide an aggregated list of the requested changes in the form of a "requested revisions" document that will be submitted to the DBS Office and then provided to all students on the date outlined in the specific schedule for that specific academic year.

Extended Process for "minor revision" students:

For students who receive a "Minor Revisions" result, they will have approximately two weeks to make these changes and resubmit them to the DBS office. The exact schedule

for this process will vary year to year based on the Doshisha Business School schedule, but in general these changes are expected to be resubmitted within two weeks of receiving the evaluation results.

Upon receipt of these revised papers, the original 3-member faculty evaluation panel will review these revised materials, and will reach a final decision as to whether the student has made the appropriate level of revisions required to pass the Master's Thesis/Research Project Report.

If the review panel does not feel that the student has adequately revised their paper according to the written feedback that was provided to them, then this student will fail the Master's Thesis/Research Project Report, and will need to revise and resubmit their paper with an adequate level of changes made by the next semester deadlines at the very earliest.