



1 January 2016

School of Information Sciences

Degree Programme in Information Studies and Interactive Media

Evaluation criteria for Bachelor's theses in the Degree Programme in Information Studies and Interactive Media

An approved thesis will be graded on a scale from one to five (1–5). The grade of the thesis is always based on an overall consideration which places emphasis on the mastery of general research practices. The grading of the thesis is divided into the following areas:

1. Thesis topic: definition, ambition and innovativeness

This assessment is affected by how well the author justifies the choice of topic and defines the objectives of the research, how the topic fits the field of information studies or interactive media, and how well the author manages to verbalise and define the point of view of the research.

2. Familiarity with the field (literature review)

The literature review should link the thesis to previous research in the field. The key concepts used in the thesis should be defined and any hypotheses should be described on the basis of the source literature.

3. Choice and application of research methods

The evaluation of this area is based on the justification of how the literature review or the selected research method answer the research problem and, in particular, on the sometimes critical assessment of how well this goal was achieved (the limitations of the research). The value of the thesis will be considered higher if the author points out topics for further research or analyses the significance of the findings.

4. Scientific manner of writing and the quality of reporting

Key elements of a Bachelor's thesis include the consistent use of scientific conventions, such as reference markings, and the logical structure of the thesis. In addition to these, the grade is affected by the clarity and fluency of writing, grammatical correctness, the mastery of argumentative language and other presentation aspects, such as the use of tables, summaries and charts.

Below is a list of the typical features of thesis rated with a particular grade:

Sufficient (1). The thesis can be approved without question. The thesis can be seen as belonging to the field of information studies or interactive media. Aspects related to scientific reporting in the thesis, such as references, structuring and the setting of the research question are at least partly as required from the formal point of view, and the overall structure of the thesis is reasonably conventional.



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Satisfactory (2). As above, but the topic of the thesis clearly belongs in the field of information studies or interactive media. The setting of the research question is clear, but its definition may not be perfect. Some key concepts used in the research are defined. Research methods and possible research material are presented, but their use may be inconsistent or inaccurate. There is a moderate amount of source literature, but references to them are not good enough or appropriate, or the use of the works is not optimal.

Good (3). As above, but the setting of the research question is clearer and the author is able to answer the question fairly well. The research method can be fairly naturally derived from the research problem. The motive of the choice of topic becomes clear. The author recognises and reflects on the limitations of the thesis. Scientific writing conventions are used in the thesis in an appropriate and consistent way. References and their use are also appropriate. There may be some issues with the coverage of the source literature or the justification of literature choices.

Very good (4). The thesis can be said to cover all four grading criteria fairly well.

Excellent (5). As above, but the thesis demonstrates exceptional merits relating to an innovative choice of topic or novelty, general significance of the findings, systematic and clear manner of presentation, thorough knowledge of the research literature and a good command of the research methods, among other things.