

Module Description

Module 14: Master Thesis

Hochschule Bremerhaven, Bremerhaven, Germany
& Business Academy Southwest, Esbjerg, Denmark

Module Type: Core Module

Contact time: 12 hours

Frequency offered: Start-up session
and 4 on-line sessions

ECTS/weighting: 15 ECTS / 0.249 Full-time equivalent

Self-Study: 450 hours

Offered in: Esbjerg in combination with on-line media

Prerequisites

Achievement of at least 35 credit points in the Offshore Wind Energy MBA-program so far.

An application for approval of the proposed topic must be submitted by each candidate to the study board. The application must contain

- a description of the subject,
- the written consent of the lecturer who has provided the topic,
- the scheduled start,
- an indication of whether the work is to be done individually or in a group; the other group members must be named.

Time of application for a master thesis:

An application for approval of the proposed topic may be submitted at any time.

Topic

The topic has to be within the scope of the Offshore Wind Energy MBA. It may be provided by any or all lecturers of the Offshore Wind Energy MBA. The person to be examined must be given the opportunity to submit proposals for the topic.

Aim & Learning Outcome

The Master's thesis should show that the candidate is able to independently work on a problem scientifically and methodically within a given period of time and to classify it in interdisciplinary contexts.

The students demonstrate with a master thesis that they are able to systematically work on and solve a complex and specific management problem at Master's level, supported by scientific findings and using scientific methodology.

In addition the Master Thesis programme includes physical as well as on-line general teaching and supervision. This is done to increase the quality of each individual's participation and learning outcome of the master thesis writing process.

Content

The Master thesis consists of a written paper (maximum of 150.000 strokes per student) and a colloquium.

The master thesis can be an experimental or empirical part, it must contain a written part.

Process

The master's thesis can also be written as a group work with up to three students. In the case of a group work, the contribution of each member of the group must be clearly identifiable.

The study board shall determine the date on which work on the thesis is to commence and the final date for completion. The topic will be announced to the examinee.

The colloquium on the Master's thesis should take place at the next possible date, at the latest six weeks after submission of the thesis. It will not take place until the Master's thesis has been graded at least "adequate".

In the colloquium, the candidate shall prove that he or she is able to independently represent the solutions developed in a discussion on the subject area of the Master's thesis in an interdisciplinary and problem-related manner on a scientific basis. The colloquium should take place at the next possible date, at the latest six weeks after submission of the thesis. The colloquium shall be conducted jointly by the examiners of the Master's thesis as an individual examination or, in the case of a group thesis, as a group examination. The duration of the colloquium is usually 30 to 60 minutes for each examinee. A failed colloquium can be repeated once within a period of two months.

Minutes of the colloquium shall be taken for each person to be examined and shall be included in the examination files. They shall contain information on the examiners, the members of the examination board present, the subject, the duration and the course of the examination, the assessments made and the examination grade awarded and, if necessary, mention any special events that occurred during the colloquium. The minutes shall be signed by the examiners.

Phases of the Master Thesis

Phase 1: Orientation

You have completed 7 modules and thus fulfilled the minimum requirement to begin the Master's thesis. And, of course, you have the necessary time. First you have to decide what you want to deal with in your Master's thesis. Aspects that play a role here are first and foremost your interests, but also specific opportunities that arise, for example, in your own company or in other contexts in which you are working. Other aspects are a realistic scope of the topic and its scientific fruitfulness. For these explorations, you contact a member of the Study Board who will support you in this search phase. At the end of the search phase, you will have identified a supervisor and examiner who are suitable for the topic in question, as well as a second examiner if necessary.

Following this process and having a general idea of problem statement you will be invited to a combined physical and on-line session with the duration of 8 hours. During this session you will be taught the principles of academic writing including the detailed understanding on paradigms, perspectives and methodology. During the session each participant will be grouped in similar scientific problem fields/statements in order to further refine and analyse the foundation of each individual's work. You will be guided through the design of typical statements, subquestions and analytical methods. During the session each student group will present their perspectives on different problem areas digesting the teaching within the academic elements of a master thesis. The session will include the teaching within the fields of validating data sources, use of statistics,

the use of induction and deduction and the unique characteristics of crafting new knowledge in the perspectivation part of the thesis. The session is structured in the following way:

Part 1: Teaching in logic, problem statement and structure of the thesis.

Part 2: Grouping of students in similar topics and problem statements including overlapping objects of analysis – including presentations.

Part 3: Using group examples a walk-through of paradigms, methodology and research design.

Part 4: Students are allowed to digest and further expand their work in groups – presentations.

Part 5: The teaching within the fields of analysis and analytical methods, data sources and validation criteria. This teaching is supplemented with the use of statistical methods, validation of data sources and the academic structure of the thesis using induction and deduction.

Part 6: Students reflect on the teaching and one group is selected to present their suggestion of thesis design under close supervision in a final knowledge sharing event.

The session is supplemented by 4 on-line sessions lasting 1 hour each. These sessions are described under the phase “working on the thesis”.

Phase 2: Working out the specific topic

Together with the future supervisor and first examiner of your Master's thesis, you work out further details of the topic, for example, concrete questions, a definition of the goals, an estimate of the effort involved combined with a timetable and an initial review of both professional publications and sources as well as the scientific literature on the topic. At the end of phase 2, the topic is precisely formulated and an exposé is prepared. Both are submitted to the Study Board for approval.

Please make use of the module description (Module Description_Offshore Wind Energy MBA_Thesis.pdf), an overview about main steps (OWEMBA master thesis process steps WL 230110.pdf) and a detailed instruction how to go through this process (OWEMBA master thesis Feb 2022 WL)

Form for the notification of the thesis to the study board: Form Offshore Wind Energy MBA Student's notification of the thesis to the Study Board.docx

Form for a proposal: Form Offshore Wind Energy MBA proposal of the thesis.docx

Phase 3: Approval of the topic

The Study Board approves the topic of the Master's thesis and determines the first and second examiners. If necessary, there is further consultation here if the need for this is recognised. The topic is now fixed and cannot be changed. With the approval, the date of submission is set.

You will be informed by the Study Board: Approval master thesis form.docx

Phase 4: Working on the thesis

You work on your topic and, if necessary, consult with your supervisor. You submit the completed Master's thesis to the Study Board. It can also be submitted before the set date.

Within this phase 4 on-line sessions (topics) will be made available.

Each session will be spaced equally between the start-up session and the hand-in of the thesis. During each session students will via their assigned supervisors have the responsibility to knowledge share their thoughts on the thesis writing process in combination with the following pre-determined topics expanded by the on-line teacher:

Topic 1: Empirical studies, design of surveys and the use of theory.

Topic 2: The conduct of analysis and corresponding examples.

Topic 3: The reflection on analysis, discussion and evaluation of results.

Topic 4; The perspectivation and the design of the oral defense of the thesis.

Phase 5: Examination of the Master's Thesis

The Master's thesis is evaluated by the first and second examiners. As soon as the evaluation is at least sufficient, the first examiner coordinates a possible date for the colloquium with you and the second examiner.

Phase 6: Master Colloquium

The final phase is the colloquium for your Master's thesis. Afterwards, the grade for the Master's Thesis and the grade for the colloquium will be communicated to you. These grades are forwarded to the Study Board, which will issue the Master's certificate as soon as all requirements have been met.

Evaluation

The master thesis will be examined by the 1st and a 2nd examiner. The grade of the thesis is determined by the average of the examiners' assessments. If the difference in grades between two examiners is two or more full grades, the examination board will appoint a third examiner or a third examiner for the final assessment. The grade is then calculated from the average of the grades of the three examiners.

Academical subject director:

Prof. Palle Mørkøre, University of Applied Sciences Bremerhaven and Business Academy Southwest.

Examiner

The Master thesis is supervised by the 1st examiner, who is a MBA lecturer with academic background and by the 2nd examiner, who is involved in the MBA, but does not come from the same company as the MBA candidate.

Literature

Rienecker, L., Jørgensen, P. S., & Skov, S. (2018). The good paper: a handbook for writing papers in higher education. 2nd edition, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur (available online in the Bremerhaven library)

Jørgensen, P. S., & Rienecker, L. (2017). Den gode opgave-håndbog i opgaveskrivning på videregående uddannelser. 5. udg. København.