

Grade guidelines for Master's thesis in Media studies / Journalism

A (outstanding)

Research questions clearly formulated. The student answers these and provides analysis, argumentation and documentation in line with the research question(s). Explains choice of theoretical and methodological approaches very well; these are relevant to the research question. Account well arranged and explained, precise and clear language, correct and consistent use of references. Convincing with regards to factual knowledge and very familiar with the subject literature and earlier research on the field. Relevant theoretical perspectives, independent in presentation and discussion of these. Any empirical analyses at high level, well and correctly executed. Highly interesting perspectives. Demonstrates an excellent grasp of salient concepts and uses these consistently. Clear, independent and interesting arguments. Stays within the defined limits unless there are very special reasons not to.

In part an outstanding and original piece of academic work that shows an excellent understanding of theoretical and analytical elements. Highly knowledgeable. Independent.

B (very good)

Clearly formulated research question(s), answers these. Good connection between research question(s), theory and empirical evidence. Explains theoretical and methodological approaches, which are relevant to the research question. Well presented and explained account, precise and clear language. Student is knowledgeable regarding the subject and familiar with the field literature. Empirical analyses competently executed, interesting perspectives. Independent use of the knowledge. Demonstrates understanding of central concepts. Relevant theoretical perspectives. Stays within the defined limits unless there are special reasons not to. A very good academic work with regards to analysis, method, presentation and knowledge of literature.

C (good)

A good paper in all important aspects. Thesis has good research questions, but these may be somewhat incomplete or unclear. Reasonably good connection between research question(s), theory and empirical evidence. Explains choice of theoretical and methodological approach reasonably well; these are more or less relevant to the research question. Good factual knowledge and well executed analysis that is well presented and based in literature.

Other elements that might be taken into account at this level: Somewhat unclear and imprecise language, inconsistent use of concepts, somewhat erroneous or insufficient account of facts or theoretical concepts, exceeding of the specified limits without any special reasons.

D (fairly good)

Thesis is completed according to the formal criteria, but there are several and considerable shortcomings. Research question, theory and empirical evidence fairly well connected, but shortcomings with regard to knowledge about the subject. Does not demonstrate an independent use of the knowledge. On the whole a fairly good paper, but with serious defects with respect to research question, design, analysis, method or presentation.

Other elements that might be taken into account at this level: Unclear and imprecise language, inconsistent use of concepts, unclear structure, erroneous or insufficient account of facts or theoretical perspectives, exceeding of the specified limits without any special reasons, unnecessary or irrelevant elements, implicit or unclear account, erroneous or inconsistent use of references.

E (sufficient)

Thesis is not completed according to the formal criteria – no special reasons given. Large and considerable defects on many of the items specified under level D. Only satisfies the minimum requirements. No command of the subject matter. Not independent.

F (fail)

Lacks detailed knowledge, is confusing and hard to grasp. Does not satisfy the minimum requirements.