

Guidelines for BA and MA Theses

You want to write a BA or MA thesis in the field of International Relations?

Great, we are happy to supervise your work!

Here are a few key points to consider before you contact the team at the Chair of International Relations.

To decide whether one of us is a suitable supervisor, we need to see a research proposal. This research proposal should address the following questions and should not exceed 3 pages:

- | What is the research question (in one sentence)?
- | Why is this research question relevant (what is the big picture)?
- | To what extent does your thesis go beyond a simple discussion of the existing literature?
- | What literature on this topic is already out there? What kind of literature are you planning to use?
- | What theoretical approach are you going to use?
- | What is your methodological approach? How do you plan to proceed (e.g. data sources, access, case selection)?
- | How do you plan to structure your thesis?

Each of these points needs to be addressed. Once we have received the proposal, one of us will meet with you for a first time to discuss it. If necessary, we will meet to discuss your revised proposal for a second time before you officially register your thesis with the SPC. Please bring the required forms and the printed outline of your thesis to this meeting. Once you have started the research process, two more personal meetings will follow, most likely before you start the data collecting process and after you have finished your analysis and are in the final writing stage.

We are looking forward to your research proposals!

If you are looking for further information on writing BA/MA theses in the field of IR, check out:

Hagen et al. (2019): Leitfaden für Abschlussarbeiten:

[http://lehrstuhlib.uni-goettingen.de/tl_files/files/lehre/Hagen%20u.a.%20\(2019\)%20Leidfaden%20fuer%20Abschlussarbeiten%20in%20den%20IB.pdf](http://lehrstuhlib.uni-goettingen.de/tl_files/files/lehre/Hagen%20u.a.%20(2019)%20Leidfaden%20fuer%20Abschlussarbeiten%20in%20den%20IB.pdf)