Guidelines for research papers

Format: BA/MA thesis length → check BA/MA guidelines

BA/MA research paper

| Research length: It should be between 12-15/15-18 pages including footnotes (no endnotes, please!) and bibliography

| Font size: Please use Times New Roman; font size: 12; spacing: 1,5

| Add page numbers

| Use one coherent style of citation (one option is the ZU Template in System One: https://systemone.zu.de/zu/pages/f3b883ec-6502-4e04-9d67-1e6946be46b9/)

Introduction: Present your topic in a way that sparks the interest of the reader (political, theoretical, normative relevance, …)

| Formulate a research question

| Formulate a hypothesis which is linked to a theoretical framework

| Define central categories/concepts in your research question

| Explain which kind of material you will use in what way (secondary literature, IO reports, newspaper article) and how you will analyze them (Research Design!)

| Explain the structure of your paper

Literature review/theory section

| Explain which research already exists on your question

| Discuss strengths, limits and weaknesses of existing research

| Explain which theoretical framework you want to use and how your hypothesis links to this framework (of course, you can also discuss competing frameworks)

Empirical part

| Structure this part in coherent subsections which help organize your argumentation

| Use titles for subsection which give information on their content

| Link up your empirical analysis with your literature review/theory section and your hypothesis

| Use the categories that you have defined in the introduction for your analysis and operationalize them for your empirical research (For example, how do you know that a peace operation has changed over time (mandate, troops etc.)?)

Conclusion

| Summarize your results
| Explain to what extent results matched your hypothesis or not.
| You can also give ides for further research or discuss weaknesses of your analysis which might have had and influence on your result
| You can also try to formulate policy advice based on your findings

Good luck!