

MA Thesis & Non-thesis Proposal Evaluation

This is not a case of having to achieve a particular “passing grade”: this evaluation is designed to help you execute and write a quality MA thesis or non-thesis paper.

Instructions to Student

- Step 1) A copy of the two-page evaluation form below should be given to **each** member of your thesis or non-thesis committee **when you first submit your proposal in writing**. For thesis writers this means the chair and two additional committee members; for non-thesis writers this means the chair and the additional committee member.
- Step 2) Instruct committee members that they should complete this evaluation **before** the thesis or non-thesis defense and submit it to Camille Kelly.

Student name _____

Faculty completing evaluation _____

	1 Limited proficiency	2 Some proficiency	3 Proficient	4 Highly proficient	Score 1-4
A. Topicality, Background & Justification for Thesis	<p>No gap is identified or described.</p> <p>Topic seems trivial or author does not let say why we should care about it.</p> <p>Too few references or organization is not clear enough.</p> <p>Evident that student do not have a deep enough grasp of the area.</p>	<p>Description of gap incomplete or unclear.</p> <p>Importance is addressed but is not convincingly shown.</p> <p>Author has done a good job gathering prior work but the analysis is mechanical and enumerative rather than conceptual and integrative.</p>	<p>Identifies a gap in existing knowledge.</p> <p>Topic is justified and the thesis will likely lead to an actual contribution to it. Many previous studies are referred to.</p> <p>Organization of different themes in the literature is somewhat ad hoc.</p>	<p>Clearly identifies a gap in existing knowledge.</p> <p>Topic is clearly justified and the thesis will likely lead to an actual contribution to it.</p> <p>Many previous studies are referred to; obvious that student read extensively.</p> <p>Organization makes connections between different themes in the literature clear.</p>	
B. Aims & Objectives of Thesis	<p>The aim is missing or unclear.</p> <p>Objectives are missing, are not connected to the aim or are too many and overlapping.</p>	<p>The aim is stated.</p> <p>There are some objectives but they are only partly connected to or follow only partly from the aim.</p>	<p>The aim is clearly stated.</p> <p>Objectives further detail and sub-divide the aim. Objectives are connected to the aim.</p>	<p>The aim is clearly and concisely stated.</p> <p>A few, additional objectives further detail and sub-divide the aim.</p> <p>Objectives are clearly connected to and follow from the aim</p>	

C. Originality, Inventiveness & Creativity of Thesis	Proposal is uninspired and describes straightforward work with little to no creative potential.	Proposal has no creative/original/inventive elements but some potential for making a creative contribution.	Proposal has some creative/original/inventive element and a potential for making a creative contribution.	Proposal has several creative/original/inventive elements and a clear potential for making a creative contribution	
D. Research Questions, Hypotheses	Research questions or hypotheses are not clearly stated or not testable/answerable.	Research questions or hypotheses are stated but only partly testable/answerable. Even if all questions are answered, the aim of the thesis will not be met.	Research questions or hypotheses are clearly stated and mainly testable/answerable. If all questions are answered, the aim of the thesis is mostly met.	Research questions or hypotheses are clearly stated and testable/answerable. If all questions are answered, the aim of the thesis is automatically met	
E. Research Methodology	Inappropriate choice of research methods or methods uncleary Described. Research methods are not suitable for answering research questions.	Description of research methods to be used somewhat unclear or incomplete. Research methods are not fully suitable for answering research questions.	Clear description of research methods to be used. Research methods suitable for answering majority of research question	Clear and reasonable description of research methods to be used. Diverse set of research methods clearly suitable for answering research questions.	
F. References Citations	Few prior works are referred to (<10) or there are several that are irrelevant and/or unrelated to topic. A majority of referred works are of low quality. Key papers are missing. Multiple and serious inconsistencies in the formatting of the reference list.	Relevant prior work is referred to but there is one that is irrelevant/unrelated to topic. Some of the referred works are of low quality. Key papers are missing. A few inconsistencies in the formatting of the reference list.	Relevant prior work is referred to but not all are of the highest quality or there are too few of them. Some key paper is missed. Proper and consistent formatting of reference list	Relevant prior work of high quality is extensively referred to Key papers for the topic are referred to. Proper and consistent formatting of reference list	

