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Procedure for Writing a BA or MA Thesis

A BA or MA Thesis is intended to demonstrate that a student is capable of undertaking a sustained piece of independent work. Students who have not gained sufficient competence in the techniques of scholarly research and literary analysis should not attempt to write a thesis. Instead, they are advised to attend further seminars and submit written papers to acquire these skills.

A BA Thesis is about 30 pages words long (double spaced, excluding bibliography).

An MA Dissertation is about 60 pages words long (double spaced, excluding bibliography).

Students are advised to attend a seminar with the teacher they wish to ask to supervise their thesis. They are expected to have submitted a paper in the field in which they wish to write a thesis.

Step 1: Discuss a possible topic and a working schedule with your potential supervisor. Students must register for a BA thesis at the beginning of a semester and submit the completed thesis at the end of the semester. Should you require an extension, the next possible submission date would be the end of the following semester.

Step 2: Submit a two-page proposal with a general description of your ideas as well as a breakdown into chapters. In addition, submit a list of secondary sources you will be drawing upon.

Step 3: Submit a sample chapter to the supervisor. The supervisor will comment on the draft and make suggestions as to how to improve the quality of your work.

The draft chapter submitted by the student should be carefully structured, well formulated, and fully documented. The presentation of the draft chapter is relevant for the final mark.

If the language is riddled with mistakes, the draft manuscript will be returned uncorrected. The student is expected to submit a revised and corrected version for the supervisor to read. Only when the supervisor has given her approval can the student continue with the thesis.

Step 4: Submission of the complete version. Only when the supervisor has given her approval can the thesis be submitted to the Décanat. The quality of the language of the thesis has a bearing on the final grade.

Step 5: The supervisor will mark the thesis and in the case of an MA thesis, write an evaluatory report.

Further information is to be found on the following site:

https://lettres.unifr.ch/fileadmin/Documentation/Departements/Langues_et_litterature/Anglais/Documents/Style_sheet_Lit_16May_2017.pdf