



GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A THESIS

A PhD thesis can typically be written in three different forms:

- a) Monograph
- b) Article based
- c) Combination model

A *monograph* is based on individual authorship. It is recommended that the thesis does not exceed 300 standard pages¹.

An *article based thesis* typically consists of 4 articles plus 1 summary report of 50 standard pages². All articles must be qualified for publication³, and at least half are expected to be submitted or published. A maximum of half of the articles can be written with co-writers and the contribution of the PhD student must be substantial and clearly indicated.

A *combination model* consists of a 'short monograph' (approximately 100 standard pages) and 2 articles, one of which can be written with co-writers, however, the contribution of the PhD student must be substantial and clearly indicated. A summary report may be included in the 'short monograph' or appended separately (approximately 50 standard pages).

The summary report typically comprises of 'state of the art' (an overview of the field of research); the theoretical and methodological approaches of the thesis as well as summaries and discussions of the thesis' results in relation to the general research question.

Even if the thesis is a monograph it is highly recommended that the PhD student writes at least one scientific article during the PhD studies.

The decision surrounding the form of the PhD thesis is closely linked to the subject matter of the thesis and should be discussed thoroughly with the principal supervisor. It is recommended that the form of the PhD thesis is decided no later than at the 12 month evaluation.

It must be emphasized, that **these models are guidelines** which means that there may be variations within the different disciplines at the Doctoral School, just as there may be thesis' that are adjacent to other disciplines with other traditions.

¹ A standard page covers 2400 characters (with space) or 360 words.

² If less than 4 articles are submitted it has to be particularly meritorious publications.

³ The final decision whether articles are qualified for publication is made by the committee who assesses the thesis, not the journal editors and referees.