

For students writing their final dissertation on Economics of Development.

Research or survey thesis?

A research thesis can be theoretical or empirical. Writing a theoretical thesis means developing a model that must differ in some respects from those in the literature. This can be done by starting from an existing model, changing one or more assumptions and then understanding how results change as a consequence. Writing an empirical thesis means asking some question to the data, which implies 1) that the data are available to you 2) that you have the necessary statistical and econometrical background and in particular that you know how to use a program such as Stata or R.

A survey thesis will not contain new specific findings but requires summarising the available literature on the topic chosen and presenting it in a new light.

Both research and survey theses will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1) how clearly written they are.
 - 2) how much technical knowledge they show you have.
 - 3) how original the approach and results are.
- ...not necessarily in that order.

Timing

A thesis of high quality may require 5-6 months, also depending on your initial technical knowledge. Three months are the strict minimum.

The first step will consist in agreeing with me on the definition of a dissertation topic. Students are kindly asked to write me a short e-mail if they decide not to write their thesis under my supervision. This is important because I need to know whether I can accept to supervise other students.

Students are asked to inform me at least once a month on their progress.

A draft of the thesis must be handed in to me one month before the graduation day.

The student must send a PDF of the finished thesis to the co-supervisor at least 5 working days before the graduation day

Editing rules

For references and citations follow the guidelines at https://www.reed.edu/economics/resources/econ_citationguide.pdf and <https://www.aeaweb.org/journals/policies/sample-references>.

All references listed in the "References" must be cited in the text, and all citations must refer to an item in the "References".

Equations, footnotes, figures and tables must be numbered in increasing order. Figures and tables must have titles.

Sources for data and reported empirical facts must be indicated. In particular tables and figures based on empirical data should have captions indicating the source, e.g.: Source: Authors' calculations on ILO data; or Source: Jones (2020); or Source: OECD (2001), etc...