

Information about Master Theses

During the last two terms of the Master program, CEMFI students are required to write a Master thesis on a topic of their choice. This note provides information about the nature of the thesis and the schedule for its completion.

The Master thesis is a piece of original research on a question of interest in Economics. The written thesis should explain the purpose, methods and findings of the research. Typically, it will be structured according to the following sections: a) an introduction, which introduces the research topic, with an explanation of why the subject was chosen for study; b) a literature review, reviewing relevant literature and showing how this has informed the research issue; c) a methodology section, explaining how the research has been designed and why the research methods being used have been chosen; d) a findings section, outlining the findings of the research itself; e) an analysis and discussion section, analysing the findings and discussing them in the context of the literature; and f) a final section detailing the conclusions reached and some possible directions for further work. In addition, Master theses will often include an appendix giving further information on models, methods, or data, if applicable, and a list of references.

The structure given above is not rigid. A thesis may contain additional sections, and the order of sections may deviate from that given above. The thesis should be written in LaTeX, which is a standard typesetting tool for scientific publishing. Some of the theses, in revised form, will be disseminated through the CEMFI's Master Thesis series. Some theses have subsequently been published in refereed journals.

Every thesis will be supervised by a CEMFI professor or an Associated senior researcher.

The timetable is as follows:

- 1) During week 8 of the fifth term, students will present their projects for 30 minutes each.
- 2) The sixth term will be fully devoted to research work on the thesis. In week 5 there will be a workshop session on the thesis progress and in week 10 students will present the final result of their thesis.
- 3) On Wednesday of week 11 of that last term students will submit the thesis.

NOTE: It is desirable that a topic is chosen as soon as possible, since the process of data collection may be long.