



Information for Seminar Papers

at the Institute of Macroeconomics

Scope

For Bachelor students: A Bachelor's seminar paper should comprise approximately 15 pages (+/-2 pages). The title page, indexes, tables, graphics, references, and appendix are not included in this count.

For Master students: There is no strict page limit for Master's seminar papers. Typically, seminar papers are between 20 and 25 pages. The title page, indexes, tables, graphics, references, and appendix are not included in this count.

Language and Style

A Bachelor's seminar paper can be written in German or English. Master's seminar papers must be written in English.

- Font size: 12 pt
- Line spacing: 1.5 pt
- Format: Justified
- Margin: 2.5 cm on each side (right, left, top, and bottom)

Formalities and Structure

The cover page of the seminar paper should include the following information: title of the seminar paper, name of the seminar, name of student, student id and submission date.

Mandatory components of your seminar paper are:

- **Table of Contents:** Present all parts of your seminar paper in the table of contents. This includes lists, chapters and sub-chapters of your main part as well as references, appendix, and affidavit.
- **List of Figures:** If you use figures in your seminar paper, list the name, running number, and page number of the figures.

- **List of Tables:** List all tables with their name, running number, and page number.
- **List of Abbreviations:** List all abbreviations used along with their full meaning.
- **Content (Main Part):** Start with an introduction that establishes your research topic, defines the subject of your research and clearly states your research question. Then, in the main part, discuss the subject of your paper, which you will ultimately review critically in a summary. Please keep footnotes to a minimum and explain abbreviations directly in the text when they are first used. Also, number important equations that you wish to refer to later in the text. Use a scientific language style in your argumentation, do not argue in variables. Spelling, grammar, and style are part of the evaluation of your paper.
- **References:** List the cited literature alphabetically. Ensure uniform presentation.
- **Appendix:** Additional tables, graphs, etc. that are not needed in the main part of the seminar paper can be listed here. Appendices must be referenced in the main part of the paper.

Detailed information on drafting the sections described here can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing" on our [website](#).

Topic and registration

We offer a list of suggested topics for both Bachelor's and Master's seminars. You can find the list in the respective StudIP course. Own research ideas very welcome, too. As each topic is only assigned once, we assigned based on first come, first serve. Information on the start and deadline for registration can be found on StudIP. There will be an information event on the seminar before the start of the semester.

Principles of Scientific Work

Citations

Please use a uniform citation style for quotation. We recommend the Harvard style. Cite within the text, not in footnotes. Example: "...as argued by Acemoglu et al. (2008), ...". Detailed information on correct citation can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing - Bachelor's Thesis" on our [website](#).

References

All studies you cite in the text must appear on your reference list. Texts that you have only read but not cited should not be listed in the reference list. There are no specific requirements for the format of the references, only consistency is important.

Plagiarism

You are required to explicitly mark any part of your text (of more than two words) or thoughts that are not strictly your own. This means that you must write in a way that clearly indicates which parts reflect your own thoughts and which ideas you have borrowed from others. Failure to comply with the principles of scientific writing constitutes intellectual theft and thus plagiarism. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your thesis (i.e., you will fail) and may lead to additional disciplinary measures by the University of Hanover. Do not attempt to copy any works in whole or in part. We check every seminar paper for its uniqueness.

Literature Research

Searching for suitable further literature is one of your main personal tasks when writing a seminar paper. Check the reference lists of the articles we have provided for interesting deepening literature. We also recommend forward and backward searching in literature search programs like [Google Scholar](#). Other good sources for scientific literature include: [IDEAS](#), [JSTOR](#), [NBER](#), and [CEPR](#). More detailed information on types of literature and tips for literature search can be found in the "Guide to Academic Writing" on our [website](#).

As a rule of thumb, you should aim to list approximately as many references as your seminar paper has pages. For a 20-page paper, you should aim for approximately 15-25 references. Expect that only about half of the articles you read will ultimately be used for the reference list.

Wikipedia is **NOT** a scientific source.