



UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE DI MILANO - FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

GUIDELINES FOR THE MASTER'S FINAL THESIS

The Faculty of Economics provides students with guidelines for the final thesis of the Master Program (*Laurea Magistrale*). These guidelines are shared by all Faculty members and will be used by each thesis supervisor according to the specific needs of each discipline of study and her own research interests.

1) An original and personal contribution

The thesis required for a Master's degree must be an original and personal work, and must meet the following basic criteria:

- the work must demonstrate an ability to independently produce a thesis on an advanced research topic, with research questions properly formulated
- the work must demonstrate: a) proper use of sources, data and methodologies; b) the student's ability to develop autonomous analysis and judgments starting from the sources used; c) mastery of the literature published on the topic.

A thesis that is merely descriptive and that simply states ideas already published without originality does not satisfy the requirements of a graduate degree program.

A thesis can fall under one of the following categories:

- “theoretical” thesis, that demonstrates appropriate use of sources and methodologies. The candidate shows skill and ability in selecting sources, understanding and describing open issues and in critically assessing the state of knowledge on the subject.
- “empirical” or “applied” thesis, in which knowledge or empirical evidence is synthesized and re-elaborated, and therefore adequately used for an autonomous and specific analysis of the research topic. In this type of thesis, particular attention is paid to the adequacy and methodological rigor of the approach, and subsequently to the student's ability to develop autonomous interpretations of the findings.



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2) Contents and formal structure of the thesis

The contents and the formal structure of the paper must allow the supervisor to propose a consistent assessment of the work and the Committee to formulate an evaluation based on the criteria already mentioned above.