

# **MOLDE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

## **GUIDELINES – PROPOSAL FOR MASTER’S THESIS 2014/2015**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The proposal for the master dissertation gives the students a credit of 5 ECTS when approved/passed.

The proposal is a research paper which should give a short description of the research problem in your thesis, the theoretical framework of your research and the research design of your work. The structure indicated below is a suggestion. It does not need to be followed strictly. Material from the Research Design seminar may provide additional suggestions. The main purpose of the proposal is for students to clarify the project and to come up with a workable plan for the continued work on the master's thesis.

### **2. GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSAL OF YOUR MASTER THESIS**

#### 2.1 Title

#### 2.2 Introduction and research problem

- What logistic issue(s) and problems does your research seek to explore and why is it of practical and scientific interest?
- Specification of your research problem  
How is the research topics framed to the logistic literature/theory?

#### 2.3 Theory review

- What conceptual and theoretical issues will be applied in your research and why are these relevant?
- Work out an appropriate theory/Literature review

#### 2.4 Research model/methods of analysis

- Indicate/describe how you will apply the selected literature/theory/theoretical framework and concepts in solving your research problem:
  - Estimations?
  - Calculations?
  - Propositions?
  - Hypothesis?
  - Associations?
  - Comparisons?
  - Descriptions?

#### 2.5 Research design

- What methodological approaches do you consider for this research?
- What should be the unit of analysis/empirical setting in your research?
- Pilot studies?

- Data collection method?
- Sources of information?

#### 2.6 Tentative project time-schedule

- What to do when...
- In what order should the various tasks be performed?

#### 2.7 Summary/end of paper

#### 2.8 List of literature/references

Please note that the significance of the various points/elements in the structure above will vary depending on the scientific discipline and nature of your research problem.

You might structure the content of your proposal in the way that you find most appropriate for research.

### **3. SOME MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXAMINATION**

- The length of your research paper should be minimum 10 pages and maximum 20 pages inclusive all literature references. Please use 12 font characters with a line space of 1.5.
- Precise instructions for submission of the written proposal will be sent by e-mail to all students.
- The examination implies the written paper and an oral presentation (15 minutes) with a subsequent section with questions from your adviser and a grader.
- The presentations take place in week 49, i.e. December 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2014. A detailed time schedule will be presented in due time.
- The presentations are open to staff and other students, unless a confidentiality agreement is made with the company providing the thesis topic.
- Your adviser and one grader will decide whether your paper will be accepted in its present form or need to be revised before final acceptance.

Molde August 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Arild Hoff

(Based on earlier versions by Halvard Arntzen, Arnt Buvik, Stein Wallace)