

Timetable EX0905/EX0907

First meeting: 31 August 2020, 10.00 – 12.00, <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/2070979390>

Submission of thesis drafts to discussants: 22 December 2020, 18.00

Final thesis seminars: 11 January 2021, 9.00 – 15.00, <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/2070979390>

Final submission of theses: 18 January 2021, 18.00, email to jens.rommel@slu.se

Grading criteria for Master's theses in Economics at the Department of Economics, SLU (24 Jan, 2020)

Jens Rommel

	Required	1	...	5	Good	1	...	5	Excellent	1	2	3
1. Problem definition.	An economic problem (the solution of which has potential for contribution to knowledge) is defined clearly and early on. The problem is defined such that the student has a reasonable chance of providing non-trivial evidence for or against it within the constraints of the course. The thesis is clearly situated by the author in the scientific debate to which it contributes, and appropriate references help the reader to deepen their knowledge of that debate if they so wish.				+ Relevant problem (potential for useful contribution to knowledge) based on good review of literature.				+ Novel problem (potential for significant contribution to knowledge) based on critical review of literature.			
2. Methodology.	The study was carried out by the student; any data used in the study is accurately described and referenced; the method is appropriate to problem and available data; the method is competently applied; the plausibility of results is discussed and judged appropriately, paying particular attention to weaknesses in analysis; there is a reflection on choice of method. Where weaknesses in the analysis are severe, alternative methods are discussed that might (in future work) help to overcome these weaknesses.				+ Fair degree of own initiative in planning (supervisor input!); method well-suited to problem; method well applied; plausibility of results thoroughly discussed and judged appropriately; good reflection on choice of method.				+ High degree of own initiative in planning (supervisor input!); method very well-suited to problem; method very well applied; code and analysis are very well documented.			
3. Discussion.	Results appropriately discussed in relation to existing scientific and policy literature (e.g. relevance for policy, or for theory).				+ Results critically discussed in relation to the existing literature.				+ Results perceptively discussed in relation to the existing literature.			
4. Scientific writing.	Appropriate language throughout; logical structure consistent with practice in the field; references presented and organized appropriately and consistently. No more than 12,000 words (excluding appendices and references).				+ Very clear structure, appropriate to the problem, almost no typos and grammar mistakes, formatting very strictly followed.							
5. Presentation.	Present and discuss the thesis in a comprehensible manner at the time appointed by the examiner, and within the allotted time. Act as discussant for one other thesis, as instructed by the examiner, within the allotted time. Attend at least 3 thesis seminars in addition to those at which they present and discuss.				+ Presentation of thesis as a poster at thesis day or a comparable event. Alternatively, you can deliver proof of popular science presentation to a group of relevant stakeholders. This option applies in particular to those who collaborate with industry partners or research projects.							

Grades	3: All of the 'Required' properties.	4: All of the 'Required' properties, and 4 of the 'Good' properties.	5: All of the 'Required', four of the 'Good' properties, and 2 of the 'Excellent' properties.
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If you fail the thesis. If you fail the thesis, you can resubmit it not earlier than three weeks after receiving the evaluation. In your resubmission, please include a document that explains how you addressed the raised issues/concerns. Please also include an additional version of your thesis in track changes mode to make the changes transparent. If you fail on two or more criteria, you cannot receive a grade of 5 on your resubmitted thesis.

Finally. The thesis should demonstrate that the author is a 'good scientist' and a 'good economist'. To see examples of the approach of economists in the fields of agricultural and environmental economics, look at recent articles in leading field journals such as the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, and the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Submission and plagiarism check. Please submit your thesis by email to jens.rommel@slu.se and jens.rommel.slu@analys.urkund.se. All theses are checked for plagiarism with Urkund.