

Time Schedule and Grading Criteria for MSc Projects in Economics at the Department of Economics, SLU (26 November 2020)

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- We will meet on 18 Jan 2021, 10.00–12.00 am to discuss grading criteria and formal aspects of the course on [Zoom](#).
- We will meet on 22 March 2021, 10.00–12.00 am for an intermediate seminar in which you will present the progress on your theses [Zoom](#).
- We will meet on 24 May 2021, 8.00–16.00 for the final seminars, using [Zoom](#).
- Thesis day takes place on 26 May 2021, see [website](#) for more information.
- Grading criteria are presented on the next page and will be discussed in the first meeting.

	Required	1 – 6	Good	1 – 4	6	Excellent	1 – 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, and appropriate references help the reader to deepen their knowledge of that debate.		+ 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. Active participation.	Actively participated in the course and take part in all mandatory assignments and quizzes, including those in Canvas (in accordance with the deadlines as instructed).						
6. 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 in a comparable event or form.				
Grades.	3: All of the ‘Required’ properties.		4: All of the ‘Required’ properties, and 4 of the ‘Good’ properties.			5: All of the ‘Required’, 4 of the ‘Good’ properties, and 2 of the ‘Excellent’ properties.	

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.

How to submit your thesis. Send your thesis in Word (using the template) by email to Jens (jens.rommel@slu.se). All these are tested for plagiarism in Urkund. Please also include jens.rommel.slu@analys.orkund.se in the recipients when you submit your thesis.