

INRM

Master thesis orientation

11 Oktober 2024

KLAUS EISENACK - RESOURCE ECONOMICS GROUP
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
WWW.RESOURCE-ECONOMICS.HU-BERLIN.DE

One way to proceed

- General objective: Conduct own scientific or science-oriented research, guided by a supervisor
- Summer/Autumn: Contact possible main supervisors
 - Check for fit of their topics, competences and availability in relation to your interests and skills
 - Know specific procedures, depending on potential supervisor
 - Be pro-active: In Germany, professors usually don't approach you for a thesis
- Autumn: Agree on topic, read background material, plan your research
 - Plan needs to be agreed with the supervisor
 - Formally, the supervisor suggests the topic, not you
 - After some reading and thinking, adjustments of topic might be possible (but not after official registration)
 - If you consider field work or collecting own data, schedule additional time (sufficiently ahead)

One way, ctd.

- Winter/Spring: Conduct your research
 - Intensity of supervision depends on topic, supervisor and possible co-supervisors
- Spring: Register your thesis
 - Find 2nd reviewer
 - Passing of the compulsory modules 1–4 is a requirement before registration
 - Hand in official form at Prüfungsbüro, with signature from supervisor, 2nd reviewer & final title
 - Official time left after registration: 6 months
- Spring: Write your thesis
- Summer: Submit & defend
- Find important forms and information (now also available in English) on:
 - https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/en/lewi-en/studiesandteachingx/Studies%20and%20teaching/examination-matters/keyword-register?set_language=en
 - https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/en/lewi-en/studiesandteachingx/Studies%20and%20teaching/examination-matters/downloads?b_start:int=0

Possible supervisors/reviewer

- Two reviewers, one of them the official supervisor, the other just for review
- One reviewer needs to be a professor at Thaer
- The other reviewer needs to be
 1. Either: a prof/privatdozent (PD) at Thaer/in INRM/another faculty at HU
 2. Or: an otherwise eligible teacher from a specific list (see “Betreuer-innen-Liste-Agrar-Gartenbau...”
https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/de/lewi/studiumlehre/PrfAng/downloads?b_start:int=0)
 3. Or: external supervisor with appropriate professional experience (usually: PhD or above, including external professors)
 - Option (3) eases a master thesis in collaboration with other organizations (e.g. extramural research institutes, firms, NGOs and public administration)
 - Option (3) requires approval by the Prüfungsausschuss (including an application when registering)
 - In the case of such a thesis: check early for qualification of external supervisor
- One supervisor primarily acts as reviewer
- Please find information on thesis regulations on: <https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/en/lewi-en/studiesandteachingx/Studies%20and%20teaching/examination-matters/keyword-register/final-theses-bachelor-and-master-theses>

Prüfer:in 1 an der HU	Hochschulleh- rende (Prof./J- Prof.)	Sonderprofes- sor:innen (S- Prof)	Honorarpro- fessor:innen (H-Prof.)	Außerplanmä- ßige Profes- sor:innen (Apl.-Prof.)	Privatdo- zent:innen (PD)	Habilitierte WiMi (Haus- halt)	Nicht habili- tierte, promo- vierte WiMi und NWGL (auch DM)	Nicht habili- tierte und nicht promo- vierte WiMi	Lehrbeauf- tragte (pro- moviert) mit gültigem Lehrauftrag	Pers. berufl. Praxis und Ausbildung
Prüfer:in 2 an der HU	Hochschulleh- rende (Prof./J-Prof.)	Sonderprofes- sor:innen (S- Prof)	Honorarpro- fessor:innen (H-Prof.)	Außerplanmä- ßige Profes- sor:innen (Apl.-Prof.)	Privatdo- zent:innen (PD)	Habilitierte WiMi (Haus- halt)	Nicht habili- tierte, promo- vierte WiMi und NWGL (auch DM)	Nicht habili- tierte und nicht promo- vierte WiMi	Lehrbeauf- tragte (pro- moviert) mit gültigem Lehrauftrag	Pers. berufl. Praxis und Ausbildung
Hochschulleh- rende (Prof./J-Prof.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ wenn Berechti- gung vorliegt	⊘	✓	✓ Per PA-Bes- chluss mit Nachweis
Sonderprofes- sor:innen (S- Prof)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ wenn Berechti- gung vorliegt	⊘	✓	✓ Per PA-Bes- chluss mit Nachweis
Honorarpro- fessor:innen (H-Prof.)	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Außerplanmä- ßige Profes- sor:innen (Apl.-Prof.)	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Privatdo- zent:innen (PD)	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Habilitierte WiMi (Haus- halt)	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Nicht habili- tierte, promo- vierte WiMi und NWGL (auch DM)	✓ wenn Berechti- gung vorliegt	✓ wenn Berechti- gung vorliegt	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Nicht habili- tierte und nicht promo- vierte WiMi	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Lehrbeauf- tragte (pro- moviert) mit gültigem Lehrauftrag	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Pers. berufl. Praxis und Ausbildung	✓ Per PA-Bes- chluss mit Nachweis	✓ Per PA-Bes- chluss mit Nachweis	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

Please always
compare with the
current version on
the Thaer
Institute website:

Prüfungs-
angelegenheiten
Downloads

<https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/de/lewi/studiumlehre/PrfAng/downloads>

„Kreuztabelle-
Prüfer:innen-
Konstellationen“

Writing the thesis

- Research \neq writing; both are not “linear”
- Conventions not quite general, depends on topic and epistemic community
 - Clarify early on with your supervisor
 - Always: standards of good scientific practice, including referencing and no plagiarism
- Some typical components
 - Introduction: Motivation of the topic; statement of research question
 - Background on the topic, scientific state-of-the-art for the research question
 - Theoretical background you work with
 - Methodology and research design
 - Results, based on methodology and theory
 - Discussion and broader interpretation of the results / clarifying your contributions to state-of-the-art / critical assessment of limitations / suggestions for further research / policy implications
 - Summary and conclusions
 - References
- Schedule time for final editing