

# Formal Requirements for Seminar Papers and Bachelor's/Master's Theses at the Chair of Economics VI: Empirical Economics

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February 1, 2024

## 1 Basics

At the Chair of Economics VI: Empirical Economics more emphasis is placed on the empirical and methodical substance of a paper than on its formal aspects. Therefore, the following formal instructions should be regarded as guidelines. Exact compliance with specific formatting rules is not strictly necessary; however, we require you to adhere to a specific formatting and citation style once chosen.

Generally, the course language at the Chair of Economics VI: Empirical Economics is English because the research literature is written almost entirely in English. Thus, we recommend writing seminar papers or Bachelor's/Master's theses in English. Yet, you are also allowed to write in German.

Although formal aspects and writing style will not directly influence your grade, obvious and grave shortcomings can have a negative impact. In that regard, you should avoid frequent spelling mistakes or inconsistent formatting.

## 2 Length

Please note the following requirements concerning the length of Master's or Bachelor's theses, WiWiZ, and seminar papers:

- Master's thesis: 100,000 characters (approx. 37 pure text pages)
- Bachelor's thesis: 60,000 characters (approx. 23 pure text pages)
- WiWiZ paper: 40,000 characters (approx. 15 pure text pages)
- Seminar paper: 20,000 characters (approx. 8 pure text pages)

**Please mention the number of characters on the title page.** When calculating the number of characters, you should include spaces, footnotes, tables, and bibliography and exclude title page, table of contents, lists of figures and tables, as well as programme codes and appendices. Decisive for staying within the required length is the number of characters, not pages. Robustness tables or larger formal paragraphs may be put into an appendix. Note that the appendices should not contain new arguments or core messages, results, or crucial derivations and formulas. Bear in mind that a paper should not just be an accumulation of tables and (copied, un-commented) formal proofs. There should be a common thread running through your argumentation. Exceeding the limit by more than 10% will negatively affect the grade.

### 3 Note on submission

All theses and seminar papers have to be submitted including **your written paper and all replication files of your work**. For the replication files, please create a separate text file (“readme-file”) listing all included files and an instruction how the replication can be conducted. Please hand in all executable code as well as the data (in case the data was not made available by the chair).

For details on the submission process of Bachelor’s and Master’s theses as well as WiWiZ papers, please refer to the dedicated document on the chair’s website ([https://www.ewf.uni-bayreuth.de/pool/dokumente/HinweiseUndThemen\\_20231006.pdf](https://www.ewf.uni-bayreuth.de/pool/dokumente/HinweiseUndThemen_20231006.pdf)).

Seminar papers are to be submitted electronically and in a printed version. In case there is a database for submission on e-learning, please upload your paper and replication files there. In case there is no database on e-learning, please hand in all files via email to your supervisor. Additionally, hand in a printed version of your paper (with filing fastener, no spiral binding).

### 4 Formal requirements

#### 4.1 Outline

The paper should contain the following points in the specified order. Points written in italicised letters are not compulsory for seminar papers, but have to be included in a Bachelor’s/Master’s thesis at the position given below.

1. Cover sheet
2. *Abstract*
3. Table of contents
4. *List of tables*
5. *List of figures*
6. *List of abbreviations*
7. Main text
8. References
9. Appendix (optional)\*
10. *Eidesstattliche Versicherung*

\* The appendix contains only additional information, e.g. further tables, descriptions of data or formal proofs which are not necessary in order to understand the paper as such.

#### 4.2 Cover sheet

The cover sheet should include the following information:

- University of Bayreuth
- Chair
- Lecturer / Supervisor
- Course (in the case of seminar papers)

- Type of the paper
- Title of the paper
- Subtitle (optional)
- Personal information (Name, address, telephone number, email address, matriculation number, number of semesters, degree programme)
- Number of characters of the paper
- Date of submission

### 4.3 Formatting

**Page format:** Generally, the DIN-A4-format should be used. The margins should not differ too much from the usual frame (left 3 cm, right 2 cm, top and bottom 2.5 cm).

**Font type and size:** The font size should be either 11pt or 12pt. You can use all standard font types. The main text should be justified.

**Pagination:** The page numbering of the main text should begin with an Arabic 'one'. Any lists of figures / tables / abbreviations may be furnished with Roman numerals. The appendix is numbered specifically (A1, A2, ...). All tables, figures and equations should be numbered with consecutive Arabic numerals.

### 4.4 Tables and figures

The title of the table should be centred above the table. Vertical lines should be avoided, the use of horizontal lines should be minimised. Please make sure that in tables numbers are given with consistent decimal places. You can add further explanation of values, variables and data in the supplementary notes below the table. In tables with regression output, each column should give the results of a regression (not each row). Further, it is important that you exactly denote the information you want to report. For instance, it has to be clear whether standard errors,  $p$ -values or  $t$ -statistics are referred to.

Normally, you should only use tables in your paper that are based on your own calculations. However, if you take a table from a different article, you must indicate the source at the end of your table notes. In the following you will find an example of a formatted table.

Table 1: Results of the fixed-effects regressions, base sample, 1960-2000, five year averages

Dep. Variable	Democracy (1) Pooled OLS	Democracy (2) FE OLS	$\Delta$ Democracy (3) Anderson-Hsiao IV
Democracy $_{t-1}$	0.706 (0.036)	0.379 (0.051)	
Log GDP p.c. $_{t-1}$	0.072 (0.010)	0.010 (0.035)	
$\Delta$ Democracy $_{t-1}$			0.469 (0.010)
$\Delta$ Log GDP p.c. $_{t-1}$			-0.104 (0.107)
Observations	945	945	838
Countries	150	150	127
R <sup>2</sup>	0.725	0.796	

**Notes:** The reported values are coefficients of the regressions; values in round brackets are standard errors. All regressions use robust standard errors. The first column contains the results of the pooled OLS regression. The second column contains the results of the fixed-effects regression with country dummies. In the third column the instrumental variable method of Anderson and Hsiao (1982) is used. In this case, Log GDP p.c. $_{t-2}$  is used as an instrument for Log GDP p.c.

In graphics, the title should be placed below the figure. If tables and figures are necessary to understand your argument, they should be placed in the main text. If this is not the case, they belong in the appendix.

#### 4.5 Footnotes

Please only use footnotes when absolutely necessary. Footnotes are placed at the bottom of the page and are normally formatted with font size 10pt (at least smaller than the main text). Please do not use endnotes.

#### 4.6 Citation and references

Citations give credit to the original author of an idea, model, or text. They are an essential part of scientific work and academic honesty. To avoid plagiarism, please inform yourself about how to correctly cite previous work. Concerning citation style, the chair uses the so-called Harvard citation style.<sup>1</sup> Generally, in the main text only author and year are cited. The references at the end of the paper give the complete information on your sources—and only these.

In the main text you cite as follows: Sala-I-Martin (1997). Page numbers or chapters follow the year after a comma: Sala-I-Martin (1997, p. 180). If you cite more than one work of an author, you should separate the years with commata: Leamer (1975, 1983). If the author of the work is not directly cited in the text, the reference should be put in brackets: (Sala-I-Martin, 1997).

With regard to the formatting of the references, there are many different styles. In the following we provide examples of the styles used by the scientific outlets *Econometrica* and

<sup>1</sup>An overview regarding the Harvard citation style as well as information on proper citing to avoid plagiarism can be found at: <https://library.aru.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>.

*Journal of International Economics*. Most important is the consistency of the chosen citation style throughout the entire paper.

#### 4.6.1 Econometrica

- ANGRIST, J. D., AND J. PISCHKE (2009): *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- KENNEDY, P. (2005): "Oh No! I Got the Wrong Sign! What Should I Do?," *The Journal of Economic Education*, 36, 77–92.
- LEAMER, E. E. (1975): "Explaining Your Results' as Access-Biased Memory," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 70, 88–83.
- LEAMER, E. E. (1983): "Let's Take The Con Out of Econometrics," *American Economic Review*, 73, 31–43.
- SALA-I-MARTIN, X. X. (1997): "I Just Ran Two Million Regressions," *American Economic Review*, 87, 178–183.

#### 4.6.2 Journal of International Economics

- Angrist, Joshua D., Pischke, Jörn-Steffen, 2009. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Kennedy, Peter, 2005. Oh no! I got the wrong sign! What should I do? *Journal of Economic Education* 36 (1), 77–92.
- Leamer, Edward E., 1975. 'Explaining your results' as access-biased memory. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 70 (349), 88–83.
- Leamer, Edward E., 1983. Let's take the con out of econometrics. *American Economic Review* 73 (1), 31–43.
- Sala-I-Martin, Xavier X., 1997. I just ran two million regressions. *American Economic Review* 87 (2), 178–183.

## 5 Eidesstattliche Versicherung

In case an 'Eidesstattliche Versicherung' should prove necessary, please refer to the following common wording (If you do not know what an 'Eidesstattliche Versicherung' is and you do not know German, please contact the chair.):

### **Eidesstattliche Versicherung**

I, YOUR NAME, born on YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, resident in YOUR STREET 1 in 12345 YOUR CITY, declare in lieu against the Faculty of Law, Business and Economics at the University of Bayreuth, that I have completed my thesis entitled

*TITLE OF YOUR THESIS*

independently and without using any tools other than those specified. All passages taken literally or analogously from published or unpublished writings are marked as such.

I have not already submitted the work in the same or a similar form to obtain an academic degree.

If texts have been generated with the help of an AI application, I have them marked and a separate “directory on the use of AI applications” attached, in which I with regard to every text passage taken over literally or analogously explain which AI application was used and how I used it. For this purpose, when using a chatbot application, I have documented the questions I directed to the application.

Bayreuth, DATE

*Signature*