



European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) 2015-2016

Course curriculum for EDSD Thesis course

1. General information

1. Name: Thesis course
2. Level: Doctoral level

2. Course placement within the educational system

1. Subject: Demography
2. Independent research with the completion and discussion of a dissertation, that is a thesis proposal or research paper.
3. The course is offered in English.

3. Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify a relevant research question
- frame the research aims and goals of an independent doctoral study
- prepare a well-structured thesis proposal
- present a written report, in accordance with academic standards
- discuss a research report on the basis of academic standards
- prepare a scientific poster
- write a well-structured scientific paper, chose an appropriate journal to submit the paper to, make revisions to the paper according the peer reviews

4. Course content

The student has to define a research issue, carry out research, write and present a dissertation (thesis proposal or research paper) independently, although with support from a supervisor. At an early stage a supervisor will be allotted to the student on the basis of her/his area of interest. Well before the actual period of the thesis work a series of preparatory seminars will be held, where the students present ideas and plans for the research. It is the task of the supervisor to support the development from idea to plan, and thereafter to stimulate and criticize the student's work.

A thesis proposal/research paper should consist of an original, independently executed work. The general structure of the proposal's content should be: (1) Specific Aims; (2) Background and Significance; (3) Preliminary studies; (4) Research design and methods. The general structure of a research paper should be: (1) Introduction; (2) Theoretical background and Hypotheses; (3) Data and Methods; (4) Results; (5) Summary and Discussion.



5. Teaching and assessment

Teaching takes place primarily through individual supervision and discussions in the student group at seminars, at different phases of the project, led by the course leaders. Throughout the writing process the student can consult her/his supervisor for advice, feedback and criticism. The final grade will consist of assessment of the final presentation of the student's work (30% of the final grade) and of assessment of the thesis proposal/ research paper (70% of the final grade). The final presentation will be graded by the course leaders and the written work will be assessed by both a supervisor and the course leaders.

6. Grading scale

Grading on the programme is based upon the ECTS scale. This means that in order to pass a certain course or assignment a student has to get the mark A, B, C, D or E, where A is the highest possible mark. Students who fail an assignment will get the mark F. In very general terms, the different grades represent the following quality of work:

A	Excellent.	The achievement clearly distinguishes itself and is excellent with regards to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought
B	Very good	Very good. The work shows a very good ability of theoretical depth, practical application, analytical skill and independent thought.
C	Good	The achievement lives up to expectations and is of a good standard when considering theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
D	Satisfactory	The result is satisfactory on most levels, but has some weaknesses with regards to the above mentioned aspects.
E	Sufficient	The performance satisfies the minimum requirements, but not more.
F	Fail	The result is not satisfactory enough.

7. Prerequisites

General prerequisites for the European Master in Demography

8. Literature

It will be provided separately by instructors.