Guidelines for Thesis Abstracts (BA and MA)

Thesis candidate:

Supervisor:

Expected start of thesis:

Expected submission of thesis:

1. Topic
   - State your topic briefly and precisely.
   - What will your thesis be about?
   - Can you provide a working title?

2. Point of departure and problem
   - What led you to the topic of your paper?
   - What interests you about the topic of your work, what problem do you want to work on?

3. Research question and thesis aim
   - What is the central research question of your work, which results from the problem?
   - What results, what yield would you like to have at the end of your work?
   - What is the significance of the results of your work for science and practice, what is their added value – as far as you can describe this at the present time?

4. State of the art
   - What is the state of the art regarding your research topic/question?

5. Core assumptions and hunches
   - What do you already know (on the basis of your previous reflections and literature research) about the topic?
   - What assumptions do you already have about the topic of your thesis or the research question?
   - What are the central theoretical concepts/models you use in your work?
   - Can you briefly outline these and name their significance for the guiding research question of your work?
6. Methodological approach to the work

- Do you plan on writing an empirical thesis (can be theory-oriented) or one which is entirely theoretical in nature?
- How do you proceed methodically, with which quantitative and/or qualitative methods?
- In which methodological steps do you work on the research question of your thesis?

7. Composition and structure of the thesis

- Can you describe what you intend to do in the sections/chapters of your thesis and how they build on each other in the sense of a common thread?

8. First preliminary outline

9. Preliminary sources

10. Schedule / envisaged work steps

Chair of Political Science, esp. Global Governance
Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
University of Hamburg
Max-Brauer-Alle 60
22765 Hamburg

Adapted from Dr. Anja Centeno Garcia