



**Universität Hamburg**  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

**FAKULTÄT**  
FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND  
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

**Overview of Assessment Criteria**  
**for**  
**Term Papers and Final Theses (BA, MA)**

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**Stand: June 2016**

## **Preliminary remark**

Therefore, you will find below a list of assessment criteria used at our Chair in grading term papers and final theses. Our assessment criteria are subdivided into seven categories and presented as statements, which reflect the ideal situation with regard to each individual criterion.

<b>Assessment criteria for term papers and final theses</b>	
	<i>Individual Assessment<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>(1) Construction of the thesis</b>	
• The structure of the thesis is appropriate to the question.	++ + 0 - --
• The length of sub-sections is proportionate to their importance.	++ + 0 - --
• The overall structure of the thesis is logical and concise.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(2) Contents</b>	
• The independent work was appropriate for a Bachelors thesis.	++ + 0 - --
• The research question is formulated precisely.	++ + 0 - --
• The research question is adequately addressed and answered.	++ + 0 - --
• There is appropriate balance between depth and breadth of analysis.	++ + 0 - --
• The contents of the thesis are correct.	++ + 0 - --
• The results presented are of high quality.	++ + 0 - --
• Results are critically analyzed.	++ + 0 - --
• The contents of the work are usefully complemented by appropriate forms of presentation.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(3) General Approach</b>	
• The methodology used is justified and appropriate to the problem posed.	++ + 0 - --
• The reasoning is always transparent.	++ + 0 - --
• The work is characterized by a high quality of argumentation.	++ + 0 - --
• The connection to the theme is always apparent.	++ + 0 - --
• There are no redundancies in the argument.	++ + 0 - --
• The presentation is always appropriate.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(4) Empirical Method (where relevant)</b>	
• The method used is clear and transparent.	++ + 0 - --
• The author critically reflects on the methods used.	++ + 0 - --
• Empirical questions and hypothesis are theoretically based.	++ + 0 - --
• The analysis complies with the relevant quality criteria.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(5) Literature</b>	
• The sources are appropriate in terms of quality.	++ + 0 - --
• The sources are appropriate in terms of quantity.	++ + 0 - --
• Citations are always correct.	++ + 0 - --
• The bibliography is error-free.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(6) Formalities</b>	
• Written expression is independent, understandable, clear and correct.	++ + 0 - --
• Spelling and punctuation are always correct.	++ + 0 - --
• Presentation is appropriate.	++ + 0 - --
• The typesetting and formatting requirements are complied with throughout.	++ + 0 - --
<b>(7) Extra Achievements (where relevant, only + or ++)</b>	
• The thesis distinguishes itself through its creativity.	++
• The thesis distinguishes itself through the diligence and effort applied.	++
• The thesis distinguishes itself through originality.	++
• The thesis distinguishes itself through the depth of reflection displayed.	++
• Other:	

<sup>1</sup>Scale: ++ applies completely; + mostly applicable; 0 often applicable; - rarely applicable; -- not at all applicable