

Masters in International Affairs & Governance (MIA)

MIA Thesis: Journey & Colloquium

MIA THESIS JOURNEY

The master's thesis offers a chance for in-depth exploration of a problem in International Affairs of student's choice under expert supervision. It is a substantial piece of research, which can be regarded as a piece of preparatory work for an optional doctorate. While students can choose the topic freely, it needs to be in a MIA core area and approved by the supervisor. If they wish to specialize, it needs to relate to the chosen specialization theme.

The MIA Thesis Proposal: It is recommended that students prepare a MIA Thesis Proposal prior to contacting MIA faculty in regard to potential supervision. Outlining the individual analysis steps, the expected outcomes, and a detailed time plan, within 5 pages (max.), the proposal shall help students organize ideas, material and objectives for their MA Thesis. It shall also provide faculty with a clear vision of the planned thesis project and prepare the ground for a first exchange.

The MIA Thesis Colloquium: The MIA Thesis Colloquium exists for students to present and jointly discuss each other's work in progress. Attendance and presentation are required to pass the master's thesis requirement. Students present their full research design (i.e. an extended MIA Thesis Proposal), prepare a handout highlighting the main aspects and challenges, and actively participate in the discussions. Colloquia are offered in the spring and the autumn terms, by varying faculty across the MIA disciplines (business administration, economics, law, and political science).

The MIA Thesis: The master's thesis shall be modelled on an extended research article (more extensive literature review; more extensive documentation of design, data, analysis), and comprise no more than 15,000 words (excl. bibliography, appendices). Next to the official thesis submission, if applicable, students shall provide their supervisor with all materials relevant to replicate results.

MIA Thesis
Proposal

MIA Thesis
Colloquium

MIA Thesis

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon finalizing the MIA Thesis course students are expected to show proficiency in:

- formulating a research question, motivated by a clear problem;
- applying fundamental concepts and/or theories to analyze the research question and to develop a research framework;
- adopting a coherent research design and using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques (if applicable);
- demonstrating the scientific contribution and practical relevance of the research carried out;
- providing a consistent, well-structured and -argued text;
- planning and managing their own learning process.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

It is recommended that students consult freely available university-wide offers:

- *The HSG Writing Lab;*
- *The Data and Methods Consulting.*

Additional training is provided for MIA students in the context of the:

- *MIA Mornings: Skills & Competencies.*

