## Appendix A to Internship Programme 2024-2026

## GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION, DEFENCE AND PROCESSING OF TERM PAPERS

**MASTER’S PROGRAMME “ARTS AND CULTURE MANAGEMENT”**

**DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**Academic Supervisor of a master’s programme** is the HSE academic staff member appointed by the Rector’s directive and responsible for development, implementation and quality of the given degree programme.

**Academic Council of a degree programme** is the agency responsible for academic supervision of the given degree programme. If there is no Academic Council, its duties may be assumed by the Academic Supervisor of the degree programme.

**Department/school** is a structural unit of an HSE faculty or other subdivision delivering bachelor’s, master’s and specialist level programmes and employing faculty members.

**Degree programme**is a set of core educational characteristics (volume, scope, expected outcomes), administrative and teaching provisions and assessment methods presented as a curriculum, academic calendar, syllabuses for courses and other components, as well as assessment and teaching materials

**HSE ES** – educational standards for higher education set forth by HSE

**Guidelines (for term paper/thesis preparation)** are standards and recommendations for preparation and evaluation of term papers/theses.

**Employer** is a party to the educational process, an individual or a legal entity incentivised for student training on the given degree programme to subsequently hire its alumni.

**Students** are individuals studying on bachelors’, specialist and master’s level programmes.

**University, HSE** is the federal state autonomous educational institution for higher professional education National Research University Higher School of Economics.

**Programme Office**is a curriculum support unit or programme coordinator responsible for administrative support of processes related to studying on the given degree programme[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Faculty** is any University subdivision implementing bachelor’s, master’s and specialist level programmes (faculty, school, institute).

**HE FSES** – federal state educational standards of higher education

**LMS (Learning Management System)** is a platform for online support of the educational process at HSE.

1. **GENERAL PROVISIONS**
	1. These Guidelines have been developed on the basis of the *Annex 8. Procedure for Writing Theses and Term Papers for Degree Students at HSE University* *to the Regulations* *on Practical Training of Students under Core Bachelor’s, Specialist and Master’s Programmes at HSE University* approved by the HSE Academic Council, minutes No.6 dated June 17, 2021.
	2. These regulations define deadlines and recommended procedures for preparation, evaluation, defence and publication of term papers written by students of Arts and Culture Management Master’s Programme.
	3. These Regulations do not cover term papers/projects prepared for ongoing assessment on specific courses. Requirements for their preparation and evaluation are detailed in syllabuses for the respective courses.
	4. Term paper is prepared, submitted and defended during the 1st academic year. According to the programme’s curriculum, the term paper submission falls in Quarter 4.
	5. According to the HSE regulations, the term paper’s supervisor gives feedback for successful term paper completion. Term papers are defended at the Defence Board.
	6. The term paper is completed in English. It can be prepared individually or in small groups (up to 2 students).
2. **TERM PAPER STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND FORMAT**
	1. The term paper may be completed in one of the following formats:
		1. **Research-based (monography, paper)** – the term paper should be based on theoretical research that attempts to obtain new knowledge about the structure and properties of the object of the research. The term paper is focused on the application of relevant theoretical framework and research methodology development.
		2. **Project-based** – developing a solution to a practical problem based on a comprehensive analysis of this problem. Project-based paper contains the analysis of a problematic situation, developing a set of tools that can be used to solve the challenges in this situation and making recommendations for how to use these tools to solve these challenges. With this format, the term paper is required to have practical significance. This format may be used only if the project that the term paper is based on is proposed by a business firm, a non-profit organisation or an expert in the relevant field and is approved by the academic supervisor of the programme.
	2. The term paper (research- or project-based) is from 7 000 to 12 000 words in length for an individual paper and from 10 000 to 15 000 words for a group paper. The word limits include reference list, but not appendices.
	3. The structure of a **research-based (monography, paper)** term paper must include the following main sections:

- **title page** with student name(s), title of the research project, and name of research supervisor (the template is provided in Appendix A-1);

- **abstract** of the paper and the list of **key words** (3-6 words or phrases). As a rule, the abstract has a length between 150 and 300 words and contains several parts: purpose, design/methodology/approach, findings, originality/value, practical contribution;

- **introduction** containing the discussion about research motivation, research goal and research question, arguments for the relevance of the research, a brief description of its distinctive features, the structure of the paper;

- **literature review** containing the discussion of relevant research and its meaningful comparison;

- **methodology** containing a detailed description and justification of theoretical and empirical approach;

- methods of **data sampling and analyses**;

- **results** and their **discussion**;

- **conclusion**: the contribution of the paper to the theory and its practical implications; limitations of the study and the ways they can be approached in the future research;

- **references** (in GOST (ГОСТ), Harvard or APA style).

The term paper must demonstrate student’s clear understanding of the data sources, data collection procedures, sampling and data analysis tools. Excellent marks (8 and higher) may be awarded only for those term papers that represent a full-scale research, with a completed data collection procedure, analysis and interpretation of the results that allow to answer the posed research question in full, upon excellent execution of all other required elements.

For the **project-based paper**, the following sections must be included:

- **title** page with student name(s), title of the project, and name of research supervisor (the template is provided in Appendix A-1);

- **abstract** of the paper and the list of **key words** (3-6 words or phrases). As a rule, the abstract has a length between 150 and 300 words;

- **introduction** containing the research goal and objectives, arguments for the relevance of the research, a brief description of its practical significance, the structure of the paper;

- **literature review** containing the discussion of relevant research and its meaningful comparison;

- **analysis of the problem**;

- **tools for solving the problem**;

- **results/solutions** and their **discussion**;

- **recommendations** proposed by the student(s);

- **conclusion**: practical implications of the term paper results; limitations of the study and the ways they can be approached in the future research;

- **references** (in GOST (ГОСТ), Harvard or APA style).

* 1. The text of the term paper must be structured according to the sections detailed in 2.3 above. Each part should have an appropriate heading. All headings should use initial capitals only.
	2. The term paper should be computer printed on A4 paper in Times New Roman 12pt, 1.5 space intervals, single-sided. Single spacing should be used for footnotes and references.

Margins should be 2.5 cm on all sides. Paragraphs should be indented. Pages should be numbered at the bottom in the center using Arabic numerals starting with the first page of the introduction.

Format your paper, using bold and italics as appropriate. Do not use any formatted styles other than bullets or numbers where required for lists. The text may contain appropriate figures and tables.

* 1. Figures should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper and not numbered according to the section in which they appear. Figure captions should appear below the figure. Figures should be supplied with sources (for example, developed by author or reference).
	2. Tables should be set as “Autofit to contents” and centered on the page. If the table runs over two pages, please ensure that headings are also carried over. Do not allow rows to split across pages.
	3. Use footnotes if necessary (Times New Roman 11 pt), endnotes are not permitted.
1. **STAGES OF TERM PAPERS PREPARATION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Stage of Preparation** | **Parties Responsible for Respective Stages of term paper Preparation**  | **Deadlines** |
| 1 | **Submitting proposals on the term paper topics** via HSE University’s virtual learning environment (VLIS) | Teaching staff, with the support of administrative staff of the faculty | **1 September up to 10** **October** of the ongoing academic year |
| 2 | **Approving the proposed topics** of term paper by the degree programme’s administration | DP’s academic supervisor in conjunction with the DP’s Academic Committee | Technical test: within **72 hours** after submitting an application for approval;To be checked for the meeting of set criteria by academic supervisors of the degree programme: **up to 96 hours** after the submission of the application for approval |
| 3 | **Selection of topics of term papers by students** **Proposing topics upon students’ initiative**  | Students / DP academic supervisor  | **10 October – 1 November** of the ongoing academic year |
| 4 | **Selection topics of term paper from among submitted proposals** | Master Programme lectures, with the support of administrative staff at departments  | **1 November – 10 November** of the ongoing academic year |
| 5 | **Second round for selection of topics of term paper; or putting forward topics by those students whose previous applications have been rejected** | Students / DP academic supervisors with the support of administrative staff  | **10 November – 20 November** of the ongoing academic year |
| 6 | **Checking that students have received topics for their term paper, as validated by their academic supervisors**  | Programme office | **20 November – 15 December** of the ongoing academic year |
| 7 | **Approval of topics of term paper in the students’ IC;****Issue of a directive to assign respective topics and term paper supervisors to students** | Programme office | **Before 15** **December** of the ongoing academic year |

1. **TERM PAPERS PERFORMED BY GROUPS**
	1. A term paper may be developed by a group of students (two students). In this case, it is assumed that the term paper solves more significant problems than an individual paper. For example, multiple hypotheses can be tested, several models developed, the larger dataset collected. It is important to remember about the internal logic of the whole research if several students implement a paper together.
	2. If a term paper is written by a group, its length can be larger than the upper limit. As a rule, its length is between 10 000 to 15 000 words (including references).
	3. The contribution of each member of the group should be clearly stated in the introduction to the term paper. If students are working together at all the sections and tasks of the term paper, it should also be stated in the introduction.
2. **SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF TERM PAPER TOPICS**
	1. The lecturers of the Programme develop a provisional list of term paper topics or research areas to be subsequently approved by Academic Supervisor and Academic Council of the Master Programme. Potential employers can also propose topics and research areas. Academic Supervisor can also consider topics that are proposed by students.
	2. The Programme Academic Supervisor can exclude proposed topics from the list if they are not relevant to the level or area of the degree programme.
	3. The lecturers and employers whose topics were excluded by the Academic Council may discuss the reasons for such exclusion with the Academic Supervisor within three business days from receiving the notification. Following such discussions, the Academic Supervisor may return some topics on the list.
	4. From October 10 of the ongoing academic year, students may choose topics of term papers via the University’s virtual learning environment (VLIS).
	5. Students can familiarise themselves with proposed topics and submit applications for chosen topics from 10 October until 1 November of the ongoing academic year.
	6. Students should consult their future term paper supervisor (hereafter the “supervisor”) in order to make a decision in regard to selecting or finalising a topic for their term papers.
	7. At this time, students can also file an application with a proposal for their own topic for their term paper. This proposal shall be subject to approval of a student’s degree programme academic supervisor.
	8. After reviewing the topic of a term paper, as proposed by a student, his/her DP academic supervisor can either accPTE or reject the proposal or revise it jointly with the student.
	9. In the period from 1 November to 10 November of the ongoing academic year, supervisors shall select applications submitted by students, which can be either accPTEed or declined.
	10. If none of a student’s applications with proposed topics for a term paper have been approved, he/she has the right to choose another topic again from 1 November until 20 November of the ongoing academic year.
	11. Finalised lists of term paper topics, as selected by students, as well as appointed supervisors, shall be prepared by the DP programme office from 20 November until 15 December of the ongoing academic year.
	12. By 15 December of the ongoing academic year, the topics of students’ term papers shall be included in their individual curricula (IC), and, thus, respective obligations on the part of students to write papers on said topics will arise.
	13. Topics of papers, appointed supervisors and deadlines for the submission of final versions of term papers by students shall be fixed in a respective directive before 15 December of the ongoing academic year. The directive shall be drafted by the programme office of the respective degree programme as per a sample kPTE in the Catalogue of HSE University’s templates for directives with respect to student affairs and signed by the faculty’s dean.
	14. Any changes, including clarifications with respect to the topic of a term paper, must be made no later than 1 (one) calendar month before the deadlines for the submission of the final version of a term paper date on the basis of an application addressed to the faculty’s dean.
	15. Applications for revising or specifying a paper’s title can be submitted via VLIS. An application must be subject to approval of the academic supervisor of the student’s DP, and thereafter the revised topic of a student’s term paper shall be set as per the directive issued by the faculty dean.
	16. If a topic for a term paper has not been chosen by a student in due time, this shall be regarded as a failed assignment. He/she must remove such academic failure as per the established procedure and within the deadlines provided in the Regulations for Interim and Ongoing Assessments of Students at HSE University.
3. **TERM PAPER SUPERVISION**
	1. After a term paper topic and supervisor are approved in a student’s IC, a student and his/her supervisor discuss and agree on the plan and deadlines for term paper composition.
	2. A draft term paper, which is submitted by a student to his/her supervisor is a mandatory step in his/her work on the term paper. A draft term paper, as a rule, must demonstrate the relevance and structure of the paper, its main idea, bibliography, including the main sources to be used for preparing this paper, as well as the anticipated outcomes.
	3. A student can finalise and re-submit the draft term paper, which has not yet been approved by their supervisor (exact dates for the term paper resubmission and assessment will be agreed upon with the supervisor).
	4. A draft term paper can be prepared by a student as part of the research seminar and individual consultations with DP academic supervisor.
	5. The submission of a final version of a term paper to a supervisor with the subsequent uploading of the text to the respective module via VLIS in order to check the paper for plagiarism with the use of an Antiplagiat system is another mandatory deadline in the term paper composition. A template form for a term paper cover page is provided in Appendix A-1 hereto.
	6. Within 7 (seven) calendar days after receiving the final version of a term paper, the term paper supervisor shall provide their feedback to the student’s programme office. Feedback must contain a recommended grade for the student’s term paper on a 10-point scale. When using the VLIS, the term paper supervisor shall upload the feedback in the special module with the recommended grade provided thereto. A template form for feedback can be found in Appendix A-2 hereto.
	7. After uploading the final version of a term paper to the special module in VLIS, the paper shall be automatically checked for plagiarism and the use of generative models via the Antiplagiat system. If instances of plagiarism or the undisclosed use of generative models are identified in a student's (students') term paper(s), the relevant student(s) is(are) assigned a grade of "0" for the term paper. In addition, the relevant supervisor may initiate the procedure for taking disciplinary action against the relevant HSE University student (students) for violations of academic standards in accordance with the HSE University Student Internal Regulations.
4. **TERM PAPER PREPARATION RESTRICTIONS**
	1. Students must comply with the term paper preparation schedule developed and final together with their supervisors.
	2. Term papers may be subject to external review. The external review is obligatory for project-based term paper, the review should be provided by a representative of the organisation-initiator of the topic.
	3. If students used automated content generation algorithms while preparing a final version of their term paper, they must include a section titled “Description of Used Generative Model” in the text. This section should encompass a description of the objectives for using the generative model, the name of the generative model, link to the website on the Internet (or a description of another source of the model), and a description of its application method.
	4. Failure to complete a term paper by the fixed deadline constitutes academic failure that can only be remedied through the formal procedures established at HSE.
5. **TERM PAPER SUBMISSION**
	1. Students must upload a .doc, .docx or .pdf file with the final text of their term paper through their personal profiles in the LMS no later than 7 days before the officially scheduled day of defence.
	2. Students must submit a draft of their term paper to their supervisors 10 days before the upload date. Students who fail to do so may receive a fail grade for their term paper from the supervisor.
	3. Submission deadlines for term papers that are subject to defence cannot be extended. Failure to complete a term paper by the fixed deadline (as per Clause 6.1 or Clause 6.2) constitutes academic failure that can only be remedied in autumn of the subsequent academic year, following the procedures established at HSE.
6. **TERM PAPER REVIEW AND DEFENCE**
	1. Term paper **pre-defence** may take place during the period April-May. It conducts as an oral defence of the detailed plan of the term paper together with expected results and conclusions. The pre-defence shall be part of the research seminar (if included in the syllabus of the course) and this form of assessment is evaluated by the research seminar’s instructor.
	2. Term paper **defence** takes place each academic year during the exam period (June 20-30). The defence is organised offline, unless an online mode of study is used at the University at the time of the defence.
	3. Defence dates and Board composition are set by the Programme Academic Supervisor. The Programme Academic Supervisor may also invite external experts (from other universities or partner organisations) to be members of the Defence Board.
	4. The defence board is composed of at least 2 members. The quorum of defence is reached when 2 members of the defence board are present. At least two members of the board must be present offline, additional members may participate online.
	5. The Study Office must provide the Board with a digital copy of each student’s term paper and of the review written by the term paper supervisor. The Board is provided with the version that had been uploaded through the student account in the LMS. If the term paper was reviewed by an external reviewer, the copy of the review is also presented to the Board.
	6. The Study Office must publish defence dates on the programme website at least one week in advance.
	7. The defence is organised as follows: up to **12 minutes** for the presentation, and up to 8 minutes for the discussion (questions from the board and answers).

If a term paper is completed in a group, the time for the presentation is extended to **15 minutes**, and for the discussion to 10 minutes.

* 1. If students miss their term paper defence for a valid reason supported by documentary evidence, they will be allowed to defend their term paper on a different date within the specially designated period.
	2. Missing term paper defence without a valid reason supported by documentary evidence is counted as academic failure.
	3. If a fail grade is received at the defence, no repeat defence shall be held during the current academic year.
	4. Each term paper must go through the Anti-plagiarism (HSE Antiplagiat) system pursuant to the *Procedures for Using Antiplagiat System for Collection and Checks of Academic Papers at HSE*. Term paper supervisors will be notified of the outcome of such checks and must take them into account when reviewing the term papers. Term paper supervisors review the version that was uploaded through the student account in the LMS.
	5. If plagiarism or undisclosed use of generative models is discovered in a term paper, it is handled in accordance with the *Procedures for Applying Disciplinary Measures for the Violation of Academic Standards for Student Papers at HSE*. Term paper with signs of plagiarism will be examined at a meeting of the Defence Board. If plagiarism is confirmed, the term paper will receive an evaluation of ‘Unsatisfactory’, regardless of which section of the term paper the plagiarism appears in. Plagiarism can be identified by supervisor, Programme Academic Supervisor, members of Defence Board and other lecturers of master programme.
1. **GRADING, RE-EXAMINATION AND APPEAL**
	1. The final grade for the term paper is calculated using the following formula:

**Final grade = 0.6\*text + 0.4\*presentation**,

where

- “**text**” is an average evaluation of the members of the Defence Board for the text of term paper,

- “**presentation**” is an average evaluation of the members of the Defence Board of the presentation

Evaluation criteria are given in Appendix A-3 and A-4. All elements of the final grade (text and presentation) are obligatory parts of term paper evaluation. Absence of one of the elements will result in 0 points for the final grade.

If a term paper is completed by a group, the grades may differ within the group. If the authorship is stated separately, grades may differ, depending on the quality of students’ answers and their contribution.

* 1. The Defence board consider supervisor’s detailed feedback according to the approved form (Appendix A-2). The review of the supervisor should be uploaded via LMS system at least three days ahead of the defence.
	2. The defence board assesses the term paper on a ten-point scale. To receive credits for the term paper, students should be awarded a grade of at least 4 on a ten-point scale.
	3. Students may access the grades and reviews of their term papers through the account in the LMS or at the Study Office.
	4. In the case where the term paper is graded less than 4 on a ten-point scale the student will not get ECTS’s awarded. The student is expected to resubmit the term paper in the autumn retake period. The term paper topic can be modified upon consultation of the term papers supervisor and the Programme Academic Supervisor. In order to change the topic, the student must submit a new request signed by their term paper supervisor and addressed to the Programme Academic Director. The student may resubmit the term paper only once.
	5. The student may individually file an appeal to the appeal committee within 3 working days upon receiving the grades with detailed grounds for appeal. Appeals are handled in accordance with the *Regulations on the organisation of intermediate attestation and current monitoring of student progress at the Higher School of Economics*. The appeal may be based on the disagreement with the procedure, while student's dissatisfaction with the grade received cannot be a ground for appeal.
1. **TERM PAPER STORAGE**

The Study Office of the Master’s programme stores copies of coursework for 2 years (either in the form of hard copies or electronic files).

## Appendix A-1. Template for the title page

**The Government of the Russian Federation**

**Federal State Autonomous Institution for Higher Education**

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg Branch**

**St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management**

**AUTHOR’S FULL NAME(S)**

**TERM PAPER’S TITLE**

Term paper

(Format of Term paper)

Area of studies *38.04.02 Management*

Master Programme “Arts and Culture Management”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Research Supervisoracademic degree, position, department\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Full Name |

Saint Petersburg – 2025

## Appendix A-2. Template Form of the Supervisor’s Feedback

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg Branch**

**St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management**

**Supervisor’s feedback on the term paper,** written by

student\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

(student’s full name)

1st year of study, Master’s degree level,

area of studies 38.04.02 Management,

degree programme “Arts and Culture Management”,

faculty St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management,

on the topic: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | **Assessment Criteria** | **Comments** | **Supervisor’s Grade** |
| **1.** | The quality of the justification of the relevance of the research question  |  |  |
| **2.** | The quality of the literature review |  |  |
| **3.** | The contribution to the existing knowledge and/or practice  |  |  |
| **4.** | The quality of the methodology and argumentation of research design |  |  |
| **5.** | The correspondence between the methodology and the research question  |  |  |
| **6.** | The completeness of the description of the expected results/solutions |  |  |
| **7.** | The quality and completeness of the conclusions  |  |  |
| **8.** | The quality of the layout |  |  |
|  | Recommended grade for the term paper |  |

Final comments:

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Term Paper Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(signature) (full name, academic degree, position, subdivision)*

“\_\_\_” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025

## Appendix A-3. Assessment Criteria for the Oral Defence

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $$i$$ | Component | $$Ki$$ | LO | Criteria |
| 1 | Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim(s) and research question of the term paper | 0.2 | * Is able to reveal and formulate topical problems in arts and culture management
* Formulates research aim(s), and research question
* Can justify the choice of the topic
 | * Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and research question of the term paper;
* originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered;
* alignment of the term paper’ topic, aim(s) and research question.
 |
| 2 | Literature review | 0.2 | * Is able to find relevant academic and professional literature
* Can make a critical review of the body of academic papers
 | * Number of references
* Relevance of references
* Quality of critical review
 |
| 3 | Quality of the methodology | 0.2 | * Is able to pose hypotheses, can choose methods and approaches,
* Is able to identify practical problems
* Uses appropriate and relevant methods of analysis, modeling and data empirical testing
* Makes appropriate conclusions and discusses them
* Proposes valuable solutions for practical problems
 | Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model, developing methodology/approach to set objectivesdeveloping valuable solution of practical problemsreview from a company(organisation) for which the project is developed |
| 4 | Report and presentation of results | 0.2 | * Reports clearly
* Presents expected or final results of the research in an appropriate manner
* Discusses the results
 | * The quality of the presentation and layout
* The coverage of main issues
* The structure of the presentation
 |
| 5 | Answers on the questions | 0.2 | * Gives clear and profound answers
* Argues the main positions of the dissertation
* Comments the referee’s remarks
 | * Clearness and profoundness of answers
* Full coverage of all critical remarks
 |

## Appendix A-4. Assessment criteria for master’s term paper evaluation

|  | 20% | 20% | 20% | 15% | 15% | 10% |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assessessment criteria[[2]](#footnote-2) | 1. Purpose and problems of the term paper - choice, specification and justification of topic – key definition and concPTEs - presentation of problems and hypotheses - scientific significance and novelty of the term paper | 2. Familiarisation with literature - knowledge of the subject area and critical use of sources | 3. Research methods - choice of research approach - data collection - suitability and use of methods | 4. Results | 5. Discussion and conclusions - evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the research | 6. Structure and coherence of the term paper. Linguistic form and final polishing of the text |
| Satisfactory 4 | The purpose of the study is unclear or the topic has been insufficiently specified. The justifications for topic choice are insufficient. The research problems or hypotheses have been insufficiently defined. | The literature is limited, secondary or only partly relevant. Limited use of scientific publications. Familiarisation with the literature is insufficient or superficial, and source synthesis2 is missing. Definition of concPTEs is insufficient or their use inconsistent. | The suitability of the research frame and methods in relation to the purpose of the study is weak. The methods have been described inaccurately. Their use is insufficient and inconsistent. \*The chosen method is not wholly suitable for the purpose of the study, and the choice of method is insufficiently justified. | The way of presenting results is limited, and relevant results are not distinguished from irrelevant. Presentation is somewhat unclear and unorganised. There are technical limitations in e.g. tables and figures. The interpretation of results is narrow, superficial, and only answers some of the research problems. | Discussion and conclusions are narrow and superficial. The research problems are not exactly answered. Discussion is not in line with the results. Comparison of the results to previous research data is insufficient. Critical evaluation of the study is missing or superficial. | The content of the study is mainly unorganised. The text is illogical, contains lots of colloquial expressions, and is hard to read. The finishing of the work is insufficient. |
| Satisfactory 5 | The purpose of the study is clear, but the justifications for topic choice are superficial and partly illogical. The research problems or hypotheses are intelligible. | The sources have been chosen in line with the topic, and some scientific publications have also been used as source materials. Critical use of sources and source synthesis2 are partly insufficient. The essential concPTEs have been defined | The methods used are basic, and the volume of data is limited in relation to the purpose of the study. The description of methods is intelligible. The choice of research method and research frame is mechanistic and the justifications superficial. | The results provide solutions to research problems, but their presentation is narrow and partly unclear and formulaic. It is difficult to follow the link between interpretations and primary research material. | Discussion is superficial but mainly in line with the results. The results have been discussed, to some extent, in relation to previous literature. The study makes an effort to critically evaluate the results. | The structure of the work is illogical in places and contains partly unfinished text. |
| Good 6-7 | The purpose and problems of the study are clear and justified. The topic has been successfully specified. The study is primarily a term paper, and does not significantly contribute to the field. | The source material is relevant to the topic, fresh, and the majority of the sources are scientific publications. The work demonstrates some source criticism and source synthesis[[3]](#footnote-3) . The background theory sufficiently justifies the purpose and problems of the study. The use of concPTEs is fluent and consistent. | Suitable basic methods have been chosen for the research problems, and they have been used duly. A sufficient amount of research material has been used in relation to the research task. The research process has been implemented faultlessly. Ethical issues of the research methodology have been considered sufficiently. | The results have been presented clearly but conventionally. Tables and figures are faultless and support the interpretation. \*data has been comprehensively analysed. The results have been presented in an organised way and on the basis of authentic material. | The discussion and conclusions are anchored to the main results. Discussion may still contain some incomplete and unorganised parts. The results are presented in relation to earlier literature and theoretical view-points, but argumentation is mainly declaratory. | The structure is clear and consistent, and the research process is easy to follow. The text is written with an appropriate academic style and register. |
| Very good 8 | The research topic is significant for the discipline. The research task and problems are clear and carefully justified. | The source material is based on scientific and original publications and is appropriate to the theme of the research task. The use of sources demonstrates familiarity with the studied phenomenon. The background theory has a strong, logical connection to the research task and problems, as well as to the method choice and methodological solutions. | The reliability of the method has been evaluated on the basis of previous studies. The research methods are challenging and have been used successfully. Ethical issues of the research methodology have been carefully examined. | The results have been presented in an organised manner, faultlessly and illustratively. The essential results can be found easily. Figures and tables support the interpretation of results particularly well. \*data has been carefully analysed and the synthesis is convincing. The interpretation of results is credible and easily traceable to authentic material. | Discussion is a harmonious, welljustified entity, in which the main results are clearly highlighted. The results are presented in relation to previous studies in a versatile manner. The strengths and weaknesses of the work have been evaluated in a critical way that develops the author’s own work. | The structure is clear and logical, and the research process is easy to follow. The text is written with a fluent academic style and register and is easy to read. |
| Excellent 9-10 | The study is interesting and significant for the discipline. The topic is excPTEionally challenging. The work contributes significantly to the field. | The literature is essentially related to the theme of the research task and problems, and it consists of high-level scientific and original publications. Literature is also evaluated and analysed with regard to the degree of reliability in the studies and the observations made in them[[4]](#footnote-4) . | The research methods are reliable and have been evaluated by the student. The methods are demanding and have been successfully mastered in the work. | The results have been presented in an interesting, clear and organised way. The text and figures/tables constitute a harmonious entity, which allows a more profound interpretation. | Discussion, as well as the entire work, reflects scientific thought and a critical insight into the matter. The strengths and weaknesses of the study have been discussed from the perspective of scientific criteria. | Language in the study is of a high quality. |

1. Emails of the heads of programme offices (programme coordinators) are stated on programme webpages on the HSE corporate portal (website). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The requirements provided for the lower levels also apply to the higher levels [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source synthesis refers to the critical evaluation of the sources used in the work, and comparing, concluding and interpreting the data in them. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In systematic literature reviews, this is paid attention to even in the lower grades. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)