**National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg**

St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Approved by

St. Petersburg School   
of Social Sciences and Area Studies Faculty Board

HSE University, St. Petersburg

protocol № 8.3.2.3.1-11/101023-2 from October 10, 2023

**GUIDELINE**

**on Thesis Preparation**

Field of study 39.03.01 Sociology

Educational Programme "Sociology and Social Informatics"

Approved by

Academic Council of Educational Programme ‘Sociology and Social Informatics’

Academic Supervisor:

A.V. Nemirovskaya \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

St. Petersburg, 2023

**1 Requirements for a Bachelor Thesis**

The Guidelines are developed according to the local regulations of the HSE University, aimed at regulating the organization and procedure of the state certification and the Concept for the Acquisition of Communication Skills in a Foreign Language by HSE Bachelor’s and Specialist students (hereafter the Concept).

A student is obliged to work on a thesis based on the requirements stated in this Guideline and the “Regulations on Practical Training of Students under Core Bachelor’s, Specialist and Master’s Programmes at HSE University”.

The Guidelines are intended for students of the Educational Programme ‘Sociology and Social Informatics’ (hereafter the Program) (39.03.01 Sociology), academic supervisors and lecturers of the Academic English Writing course. The Guidelines provide instructions for thesis reviewers and State Certification Board (SCB) members.

***1.1 General (Most Important) Requirements for Writing a Bachelor Thesis***

A bachelor thesis should be a complete, independent, English-written piece of research performed by the student under the guidance of the academic supervisor. A bachelor thesis may be conducted in the form of either a regular bachelor thesis or a research paper (a scientific article, a published conference proceeding paper, or a published conference extended abstract). The thesis may be the result of the author’s work accomplished under the framework of a research group (as part of scientific projects, laboratory research, study groups, or funded projects). The thesis might as well be written in a form of a replication study, repeating an existing research with a changed sample/ methodlogy. Irrespective of the thesis submission form (regular or research paper), the research environment or the topic of research, the work should allow the readers and reviewers to evaluate the personal contribution of the author to the paper and to what extent this contribution adheres to the study program and The Standard’s requirements.

The thesis should reflect the author’s skills in working with scientific literature, summarizing, and analyzing the empirical material with the help of the theoretical knowledge and practical competencies obtained during the education process. The thesis may develop and extend the author’s prior research work conducted in a term paper, provided that there is a significant improvement (e.g., a broader scope, new and more rigorous analyses), leading to substantially new results. The general recommendation is that at least 2/3 of the work should be new, compared to the author’s term paper.

Plagiarism in the bachelor thesis is prohibited. In case of revealing the case of plagiarism, the thesis receives a negative review (fail); at a further stage, the thesis receives an unsatisfactory grade, according to the “Procedures for Taking Disciplinary Action for Violations of Academic Standards for Student Papers at National Research University Higher School of Economics” and the “Regulations on Checking Student Papers for Plagiarism and the Publication of Bachelor’s, Specialist and Master’s Theses on the HSE Corporate Website”. One can find these documents via the link: <http://www.hse.ru/studyspravka/loc>

A thesis should match the following qualification requirements:

* clearly articulates a research question,
* reviews and analyzes critically scientific monographs, articles and other materials related to the research topic,
* analyzes and characterizes the research history of the studied question, as well as its current state,
* uses a well-reasoned research methodology that is suitable for the stated research tasks,
* summarizes the results, their reasoning, formulates detailed conclusions and possible practical recommendations, and
* it is formatted in accordance with the standards provided by the Guidelines.

If the thesis is written in a form of a replication study, the following additional requirements should be met:

* The study being replicated has to be quantitative or experimental;
* The study being replicated has to be published in a journal of Q1-Q2 (the first or the second quartile according to the website <https://www.scimagojr.com/>);
* The thesis still has to include an analytical review of the literature which doesn’t copy the review from the article;
* The thesis should include an extended section on the research design and methodology with a detailed comparison of the designs of the replicated and the actual study;
* The thesis should include an extended Discussion with comparison of the results of the source or previous studies and explanation of the differences or their absence.

The thesis should be written in accordance with academic style conventions, using appropriate terminology and abbreviations. Using the media and newspaper clichés or jargon words instead of scientific terminology is strongly discouraged. Using informal emotional constructs or rhetorical questions is strongly discouraged. The thesis text should focus on the substance of the stated research problem; the argumentation should be clear and rigorous.

In all cases, the student should consult the grading criteria listed in Appendices in deciding how they communicate to the readers and reviewers all the information necessary to assess their work. For example, if a student uses quantitative methods of data collection and data analysis in their thesis, they should demonstrate and motivate that their sampling design allows for representative conclusions and they can critically reflect on the limitations of the study design and the results.

***1.2 The length, structure, and formatting of a thesis***

The recommended length of the thesis is 45,000–80,000 characters, excluding appendices.

The thesis should be printed on the A4 paper. Minimal page margins are as follows: 30mm left, 10mm right, 20mm top, and bottom. The main text of the thesis should be typed in 12pt or 14pt standard serif font (e.g., Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing.

All new chapters should begin on a new page. Main sections (Introduction, Conclusion, References, Appendices, etc.) should begin on a new page.

All pages, figures, tables, and appendices should be numbered sequentially. The first page is a title page formatted according to the template in the Appendix; the title page is not numbered. The thesis should be bound before submission.

The main goal of the formatting guidelines is to ensure quick and convenient reading and examination of the thesis, findability of the key concepts, research decisions, and results. Formatting decisions should be approved by the thesis academic supervisor.

The References should be formatted in accordance with the GOST 7.0.5-2008 standard (The system of standards on information and publishing. Reference record, reference link. General requirements and completion guideline. – M: Standardinform 2008.), or in accordance with another international publishing reference style (Chicago Manual of Style, APA, Harvard, etc.), as approved by the thesis academic supervisor.

In case of submitting a thesis as a research paper:

* The academic supervisor indicates in the review on the student’s work a link to the requirements of the journal (should be included into the recommended list of journals approved by the HSE University) or the conference proceeding (Scopus- or WoS-indexed) which contains the structure, formatting and text length.
* The student includes a Preface into their paper that should be placed after the title page and before the table of contents. In the preface, the student indicates the title of the journal for which the paper was prepared and the related requirements to the structure and formatting; the student describes the personal contribution to the published paper.
* In case the work was published as a conference proceedings paper (up to 20,000 characters), the student additionally provides an Extended Description formatted according to the conference guidelines. The Extended Description should focus on the theoretical review, methodology, discussion of the results, and personal contribution (to sum up to at least 30,000 characters). If the paper was written in a co-authorship, each co-authoring student submits their own Extended Description, emphasizing their personal contribution. The original paper should be submitted as an appendix to the Extended Description text.

***1.3 Preparation and Defense of the Thesis***

Students should decide on the topic no later than the key dates require and submit the topic to the study office.

Students can propose their own topics if approved by the academic supervisor. The proposed topics are considered and either approved or declined by the Academic Council of the Program.

The Program makes a decision on topic applications by December 15.

The work is conducted under the guidance of an academic supervisor, who should provide the guidance, support to and evaluation of the student’s work.

While writing the bachelor thesis, the student can address the academic supervisor for guidance on setting the research goal, literature recommendations, and methodological comments on the research design. The student has a right to decide on these independently as well.

The academic supervisor has a right to demand the student to work independently on thesis problematics, the literature, methodology development at the initial stages of work. However, they are required to help when the student does not manage to do that properly on their own and turns to them for help.

A student is obliged to provide their academic supervisor with the data collection files (data sets, interview transcripts, etc.) in line with the key dates.

The work is conducted in accordance with the key dates annually announced by the Program’s Academic Council and in accordance with the Guidelines.

Only those students who have no failed courses and who successfully passed the Final State Examination are allowed to proceed with the thesis defense.

The submission of a bachelor thesis in the form of a research paper should be approved by the academic supervisor no later than the day of Project Proposal defense. If there is already a positive external review from the journal from the HSE University’s recommended list or an acceptance notification from a Scopus/WoS-indexed conference proceedings manager (i.e., the submitted paper is not rejected), a reviewer appointed by the Program prepares a meta-review based on summarizing the received journal/conference reviews and providing their mapping to the thesis criteria.

The student hands in the final version of the bachelor thesis text, formatted in a proper way, to the study office after passing the final interdisciplinary examination, in accordance with the key. After this date, the paper receives the review of the academic supervisor and of a reviewer based on the criteria provided in The Guidelines’ Appendices. The academic supervisor and the reviewer decide on the grade of the thesis on their own; the final their grades may be different from the arithmetic average calculated based on the assessment bands; the criteria listed below provide an indicative assessment for the grading (See Appendices 3 and 4 for details).

The bachelor thesis defense is a public event. It consists of (1) the author’s talk (reading from the supporting text, smartphone, tablet or presentation slides is not allowed), (2) answering questions related to the thesis after the presentation, (3) the academic supervisor’s and the reviewer’s oral or written comments, and (4) discussion on the paper by the State Certification Boards (The SCB). The SCB members have an assessment criteria list based on the Guidelines and a thesis text available. The thesis is given the final grade by the State Certification Boards after the defense is finished.

The results of the defense of the thesis are determined by open voting of the members of the examination committee based on the grades by the SCB members, the academic supervisor and the reviewer. The final grade may be different from the arithmetic average. Тhe decision is made collectively by the CSB members.

In cases when the academic supervisor or the reviewer are also a member of the Board, their grade is not taken into account when assessing the defense as a Board member. In the event of a dispute, the Chairman of the Examination Commission has a casting vote. The results of the individual voting of the SCB members are not disclosed to the students or publicly announced. Appealing against the thesis grade is allowed.

The Program develops recommendations on the thesis structure and content, based on the Guidelines and other requirements to the thesis, suggesting the students and academic supervisors the best practices in demonstrating their adherence to the criteria.

***1.4 Research Environment and Preparation of the Thesis in Group Research Projects***

In cases when the data or the research input of a research group (developed within the Research Seminars, HSE University laboratories’ projects, funded projects, etc.) have been used in a thesis, as well as in the case of completed or in-progress scientific or media publication of thesis materials or the dataset used in the thesis by the author or by another member of a research group, this must be indicated in the thesis Preface.

This reference should contain the research project’s title, the names of the project’s leader and other members of the research group, funding references, references to related oral presentations and published papers.

The Preface should also contain a detailed description of the author’s personal contribution, including the workload size of performed activities and the other members’ responsibility areas.

For instance, the author takes part in a study of the social-economics households’ dynamic during the economic crisis. Then he or she should give a brief but comprehensive overview of the project. Next, out of the full research tasks list, the author extracts their topic investigated in the thesis, i.e., the rural-areas households’ data or the occupation strategies. The author’s task, therefore, should be narrowly formulated in regard to the group project. The contribution of the student into the project work may or may not overlap with the thesis topic; for instance, in the project, the student worked with an urban-area survey, whereas their thesis is dedicated to rural areas.

This allows the Reviewers and the SCB members to assess the level of the author’s independence and contribution in their bachelor thesis preparation, given that the thesis is the product of a research group activity.

**2 Requirements for the Content, Formatting, and Defense of Project Proposals**

The preparation and defense of Project Proposals is a mandatory element of the thesis preparation. Project Proposal must be conducted in accordance with the annual thesis preparation Guidelines announced by the Faculty Board.

The Project Proposal (2,500 - 3,500 words) should reflect the accomplished work on thesis writing and include the topic description, problem statement, and research questions; the relation of the thesis’s topic to existing research areas based on the literature review; description and motivation behind the proposed methodology, data, sampling strategy and method. The proposal should not only list what the student plans to do but also convince the readers of the feasibility of the study and the proposed study plan.

Literature review in the Project Proposal should cover the main research areas related to the thesis topic and analyze no less than 15 key English-language references. As a mandatory appendix to the project proposal, the student attaches the full list of references for the literature review, indicating the exact search query used for obtaining the list when using the bibliography search engines. Several search queries can be submitted from different sources. The search query should be supplemented by a short description of the search logic, indicating how the search was done and how the literature search algorithm worked. A description of the logic and the process of the search could be as follows: I have searched for articles on the use of vignettes to evaluate opinions about the appropriate punishment for a particular crime. My Google Scholar query was: "factorial survey design crime punishment". Next, I took long-published, highly cited articles, checked recent articles from 2019, then looked at who was citing classic articles, and finally searched for "related articles". If this appendix is missing, the literature review band is graded “0”.

In case of conducting the bachelor thesis as a scientific paper, the student has a right to provide the Project Proposal formatted in accordance with the publisher's requirements, but it should still communicate the main points required by the Guidelines.

The Project Proposal text is assessed based on the following criteria and taking into account the criteria list in the Concept’s Appendix 5:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| **Topic, research questions, and methods**   * research problem, topic, and questions are clear, well-written and satisfy thesis requirements * there is a good match between the research problem, literature and research questions * there is a good match between research questions, methods and the quality of existing data or the data to be collected * the existing data or the data to be collected will be of sufficient quality and quantity, with an adequate sampling strategy | 0-4 |
| **Literature and theoretical framework**   * literature search query corresponds to the topic * selected sources are relevant to the topic * the literature review covers main research areas and no less than 15 influential works * the literature review is well-organized and structured, connecting relevant research areas in a narrative leading to the theoretical framework * sources are critically analyzed | 0-3 |
| **Text organization and communication task**   * the structure of the work is clear and easy to follow * the text is logically connected and organized * the text is easy to read, the research problem and ideas are clearly and coherently communicated * the Project Proposal is written according to scientific style conventions | 0-2 |
| **Language use and text formatting**   * the specialized vocabulary is used appropriately * there are no or only minor errors in grammar/spelling * the Project Proposal complies with text formatting guidelines for academic papers * the citation style is coherent, and citations are complete * the graphs and tables, if present, are clear, and their formatting is coherent | 0-1 |

Oral presentation of the Project Proposal is assessed by the following criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| **Topic, research questions, and methods**   * the research problem, topic, and questions are clear, well-communicated and they satisfy requirements for the thesis * there is a good match between the research problem, literature and research questions * there is a good match between research questions, methods and the quality of existing data or the data to be collected * the existing data or the data to be collected will be of sufficient quality and quantity, harnessing an adequate sampling strategy | 0-4 |
| **Literature and theoretical framework**   * the sources are relevant to the topic * the literature review presentation covers all the main research areas * the literature review presentation is well-organized and structured, connecting relevant research areas in a narrative leading to the theoretical framework * the sources and main areas are presented with a critical analysis | 0-3 |
| **Oral communication**  Assessment based on the Concept Appendix 6’s criteria | 0-2 |
| **Slides format**   * the slides' style is coherent, informative, it communicates information clearly and adheres to the academic style * the slide-show’s structure follows the main points of the presentation narrative, adheres to the announced time management limits * the graphs and tables, when present, are used appropriately, they are clear, and their formatting is coherent | 0-1 |

The final grade consists of the text grade (0.6) and the presentation grade (0.4).

**3 Special conditions for organization of learning process for students with special needs**

The following types of comprehension of learning information (including e-learning and distance learning) can be offered to students with disabilities (by their written request) in accordance with their individual psychophysical characteristics:

1. *for persons with vision disorders:* a printed text in enlarged font; an electronic document; audios (transferring of learning materials into the audio); an individual advising with the assistance of a sign language interpreter; individual assignments and advising.
2. *for persons with hearing disorders: a* printed text; an electronic document; video materials with subtitles; an individual advising with the assistance of a sign language interpreter; individual assignments and advising.
3. *for persons with muscle-skeleton disorders: a* printed text; an electronic document; audios; individual assignments and advising.

**Appendix 1. Application for the Thesis Topic Approval**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | To Academic Supervisor  of Bachelor Program  ‘Sociology and Social Informatics’  A.V. Nemirovskaya  from 4th year student  of the ‘Sociology and Social Informatics’ educational program  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Student’s first and last name |

Please approve/change my bachelor thesis topic: ‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’

**(topic in English)**

(‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’)

**(topic in Russian)**

and appoint as the supervisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**(Supervisor’s last and first name, degree, position and department)**

“\_\_\_\_\_” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20\_\_ Student’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I agree to supervise student’s thesis

“\_\_\_\_\_” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20\_\_\_ Supervisor’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 2. Thesis Title Page Template**

FEDERAL STATE AUTONOMOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

FOR HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

**Faculty St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies**

*Student’s full name*

***THESIS TOPIC***

BACHELOR’S PROJECT

Field of study: 39.03.01 Sociology

Degree programme: Sociology and Social Informatics

Supervisor:  
*Supervisor’s degree*

*Supervisor’s Full Name*

Saint Petersburg 2024

**Appendix 3. Supervisor Review of the Thesis**

**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Professional Education**

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies**

**Supervisor’s Review of the Thesis**

Prepared by the student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,

full name

Year 4. Degree programme: Sociology and Social Informatics

School: St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thesis Components** | **Assessment Criteria** | Grade (10-point scale) **(indicative)**  0,1,2,3 – unsatisfactory 4,5 – satisfactory 6,7 – good 8,9,10 - excellent |
| **Problem Statement** | * *The work has clearly communicated relevance and positioning* * *The research problem, topic, goals and questions are clear, correctly formulated and well-communicated* * *Research questions match with the thesis problem statement* * *Thesis problem statement and goals match with the thesis content* |  |
| **Theoretical Analysis** | * *The review matches with the thesis problem statement, RQs/goals* * *The review covers key research areas related to the problem (including at least 30 key international sources) and provides a critical overview of key research areas* * *The thesis has clearly communicated, correct and grounded in literature theoretical model (e.g., RQs are clearly presented and theoretically motivated, proposed hypotheses are explicitly formulated and theoretically supported)* * *Employed research strategy matches with the theoretical model* * *There is a clear connection with the literature and reviewed theory in the discussion of the results* |  |
| **Data Collection and Method** | * *RQ match with data and method employed* * *The validity of the methodology, data collection, and research design (including sampling strategy) is motivated based on the critical analysis of relevant studies* * *Data and methodology are critically evaluated, limitations of the study are discussed (including sample bias discussion)* * *Data gathering process (or database search and selection), systematization and preprocessing performed according to quality standards* * *Data is of sufficient quality and quantity to answer RQs* * *The degree of the author’s involvement in the data gathering process in case of the primary data use* |  |
| **Data Analysis** | * *Choice of the tools and methods is reasonable and well-motivated* * *Methods of analysis are applied correctly* * *Data analysis process and limitations are critically analyzed* |  |
| **Results and Contribution** | * *Research independence is demonstrated* * *The obtained results are credible and of importance to the research or practice* * *Conclusions are theoretically motivated, empirically grounded, independent, reasonable and concise, showing a clear connection with RQs/goals*   *In the case of research contribution:*   * *The scientific contribution of the study to the research field* * *Completeness and integrity of the study* * *Critical reflection on the results and limitations of the study and its positioning in the research field*   *In the case of practical contribution:*   * *The practical significance of the study* * *Completeness and integrity of the presented project/project proposal, research program, plan of activities* * *Theoretical motivation and empirical research grounding of the project, relation to the practical applications and chosen professional activity* * *Match between the proposed activities and recommendations and study goals* |  |
| **Structure and Formatting** | * *Literacy and consistency* * *Cohesiveness and coherence* * *Formatting of the text, tables, and figures, reference list* * *The correctness of the professional thesaurus and concepts usage, adherence to academic style* |  |
| **Organization of work** | * *Student’s initiative in the process of the thesis preparation* * *In the case of a group research project: teamwork skills, project communications management* * *Following the established thesis preparation timeline* |  |
| **Final grade of the supervisor (final grade may differ from the arithmetic average on the criteria)** | |  |

Comments on grade:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor

academic degree, title

department/school

(place of employment)\_\_\_\_\_ /signature/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last name and initials

Date

**Appendix 4. Review of the Bachelor’s Project**

**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Professional Education**

**National Research University Higher School of Economics**

**St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies**

**Review of the Bachelor’s Project**

Prepared by the student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,

full name

Year 4. Degree programme: Sociology and Social Informatics

School: St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thesis Components** | **Assessment Criteria** | Grade (10-point scale) **(indicative)**  0,1,2,3 – unsatisfactory 4,5 – satisfactory 6,7 – good 8,9,10 - excellent |
| **Problem Statement** | * *The work has clearly communicated relevance and positioning* * *The research problem, topic, goals and questions are clear, correctly formulated and well-communicated* * *Research questions match with the thesis problem statement* * *Thesis problem statement and goals match with the thesis content* |  |
| **Theoretical Analysis** | * *The review matches with the thesis problem statement, RQs/goals* * *The review covers key research areas related to the problem (including at least 30 key international sources) and provides a critical overview of key research areas* * *The thesis has clearly communicated, correct and grounded in literature theoretical model (e.g., RQs are clearly presented and theoretically motivated, proposed hypotheses are explicitly formulated and theoretically supported)* * *Employed research strategy matches with the theoretical model* * *There is a clear connection with the literature and reviewed theory in the discussion of the results* |  |
| **Data Collection and Method** | * *RQ match with data and method employed* * *The validity of the methodology, data collection, and research design (including sampling strategy) is motivated based on the critical analysis of relevant studies* * *Data and methodology are critically evaluated, limitations of the study are discussed (including sample bias discussion)* * *Data gathering process (or database search and selection), systematization and preprocessing performed according to quality standards* * *Data is of sufficient quality and quantity to answer RQs* * *The degree of the author’s involvement in the data gathering process in case of the primary data use* |  |
| **Data Analysis** | * *Choice of the tools and methods is reasonable and well-motivated* * *Methods of analysis are applied correctly* * *Data analysis process and limitations are critically analyzed* |  |
| **Results and Contribution** | * *Research independence is demonstrated* * *The obtained results are credible and of importance to the research or practice* * *Conclusions are theoretically motivated, empirically grounded, independent, reasonable and concise, showing a clear connection with RQs/goals*   *In the case of research contribution:*   * *The scientific contribution of the study to the research field* * *Completeness and integrity of the study* * *Critical reflection on the results and limitations of the study and its positioning in the research field*   *In the case of practical contribution:*   * *The practical significance of the study* * *Completeness and integrity of the presented project/project proposal, research program, plan of activities* * *Theoretical motivation and empirical research grounding of the project, relation to the practical applications and chosen professional activity* * *Match between the proposed activities and recommendations and study goals* |  |
| **Structure and Formatting** | * *Literacy and consistency* * *Cohesiveness and coherence* * *Formatting of the text, tables, and figures, reference list* * *The correctness of the professional thesaurus and concepts usage, adherence to academic style* |  |
| **Final grade of the reviewer (final grade may differ from the arithmetic average on the criteria)** | |  |

Comments on grade:

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Reviewer:

academic degree, position,

department (affiliation) Stamp Place \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

signature/ last name and initials

Date

**Appendix 5. Thesis Assessment Form for the State Certification Board**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Thesis Components** | **Assessment Criteria** | **Coefficient** | Grade  (10-point scale)  **(indicative)**  0,1,2,3 – unsatisfactory 4,5 – satisfactory 6,7 – good 8,9,10 - excellent |
| **Problem Statement and Theoretical Analysis** | * *The work has clearly communicated relevance and positioning* * *The research problem, topic, goals, and questions are clear, correctly formulated and well-communicated* * *Research questions match with the thesis problem statement* * *Thesis problem statement and goals match with the thesis content* * *The review matches with the thesis problem statement, RQs/goals* * *The review covers key research areas related to the problem (including at least 30 key international sources) and provides a critical overview of key research areas* * *The thesis has clearly communicated, correct and grounded in literature theoretical model (e.g., RQs are clearly presented and theoretically motivated, proposed hypotheses are explicitly formulated and theoretically supported)* * *Employed research strategy matches with the theoretical model* * *There is a clear connection with the literature and reviewed theory in the discussion of the results* | *30%* |  |
| **Data Collection, Method and Data Analysis** | * *RQ match with data and method employed* * *The validity of the methodology, data collection, and research design (including sampling strategy) is motivated based on the critical analysis of relevant studies* * *Data and methodology are critically evaluated, limitations of the study are discussed (including sample bias discussion)* * *Data gathering process (or database search and selection), systematization and preprocessing performed according to quality standards* * *Data is of sufficient quality and quantity to answer RQs* * *The degree of the author’s involvement in the data gathering process in case of the primary data use* * *Choice of the tools and methods is reasonable and well-motivated* * *Methods of analysis are applied correctly* * *Data analysis process and limitations are critically analyzed* | *20%* |  |
| **Results and Contribution** | * *Research independence is demonstrated* * *The obtained results are credible and of importance to the research or practice* * *Conclusions are theoretically motivated, empirically grounded, independent, reasonable and concise, showing a clear connection with RQs/goals*   *In the case of research contribution:*   * *The scientific contribution of the study to the research field* * *Completeness and integrity of the study* * *Critical reflection on the results and limitations of the study and its positioning in the research field*   *In the case of practical contribution:*   * *The practical significance of the study* * *Completeness and integrity of the presented project/project proposal, research program, plan of activities* * *Theoretical motivation and empirical research grounding of the project, relation to the practical applications and chosen professional activity* * *Match between the proposed activities and recommendations and study goals* | *20%* |  |
| **Delivery, Presentation and Question Answering** | * *Demonstrated level of expertise in the topic, correctness in the usage of the professional vocabulary and sociological concepts* * *Clarity, logic, professionalism of the delivery* * *Time Management* * *Structure of presentation and visual quality of slides* * *Clarity and scientific support of the arguments* * *Clear and full answers to the committee questions* | *30%* |  |
| Final grade of the Board Member  (calculated based on the weighted grades on different components of the thesis) | | |  |