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Approaches to writing a BA or MA thesis

A BA or MA thesis demonstrates students' capability to undertake a sustained piece of independent work chosen in consultation with their supervisor. Students are expected to show wide reading and reflection, a clear, well-structured and convincing argumentation, as well as a high degree of skill and competence in research methods and critical evaluation.

Before you start writing

Meet with your supervisor to discuss your project idea. Submit an outline of your thesis and wait for your supervisor's approval before you proceed.

While you write

Consult with your supervisor as often as you deem necessary to receive suggestions and inputs. You are not expected to submit sample chapters but are free to do so. Make sure to remain in dialogue with your supervisor and update him or her on your progress regularly in order to avoid surprises.

Use MLA style. This means:

- Your last name and the page number are in the top right corner; e.g. "Miller 1" etc.
- 2.54 cm (1 inch) margins all around. Do not justify the right margin!
- Double-space the text of your paper
- Use a standard font, e.g. Times New Roman, 12pt.
- Indent the first line of a new paragraph

For questions about the structure of your thesis please refer to the [Guidelines for Writing a Research Paper](#) on the website of the English department and consult the website of the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) for extensive citation and reference guidelines.

Paper Length (excluding bibliography and footnotes)

- BA thesis: 30-40pp or approx. 10.500 words
- MA thesis: 60-80pp or approx. 21.000 words

Submission

Students generally submit their thesis at the end of term. However, deadlines may be negotiated individually.

- BA theses: Submit an electronic copy (pdf) and one hard copy (adhesive binding) to your supervisor.
- MA theses: Please refer to the Dean's Office's guidelines (in German or French).

The very last page of your BA thesis should be a signed declaration of authorship similar or identical to the template below:

Declaration of Authorship

I hereby certify that the thesis I am submitting is entirely my own original work except where otherwise indicated. Any use of the works of any other author is properly acknowledged. I am aware of the University of Fribourg's regulations concerning plagiarism, including the regulations concerning disciplinary actions that may result from it.

Date:

Signature:

Title Page Template

“Something Will Turn Up”: Poverty and Optimism in *David
Copperfield*

Wilkins Micawber

Bachelor’s Thesis

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Charles Dickens

Department of English Language and Literature

University of Fribourg

May 2015