

Master's thesis in Finance

cand.oecon – finance;
cand.merc – accounting and finance

4th of March, 2019
Christian Riis Flor

How to come up with an idea

- Think back tho the finance courses you have taken
- Search for relevant literature – **Finance journals**:
 - ▶ Journal of Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial Economics, Review of Finance, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Banking and Finance,...
 - ▶ scholar.google.com or SSRN.com (articles and WPs)
 - ▶ Look at the different supervisor's homepage
 - Related research areas
 - **Accounting journals**: Accounting Review, Journal of Accounting Research, Journal of Accounting and Economics,...
 - **Economics journals**: Econometrica, American Economic Review, ...
- When you've found 1-3 papers which are related to a topic in a coherent manner you can write your draft to a problem statement

Theoretical thesis

- Motivation \leftrightarrow Research question. Example:
 - ▶ Overall objective (RQ): How does a firm's debt priority structure impact new investments?
 - ▶ Specific RQs:
 - 1 Does current senior debt expedite or postpone new investments?
 - 2 Can junior debt be optimal to fund growth options?
 - 3 Is senior debt optimal for financially constrained firms?
 - 4 ...
- You choose one or more specific models and theories which through the analysis can give an answer to the question posed
- Go through the model(s) and prove the details
- Maybe implement the model by the use of a numerical solution method – play with it and learn
- Literature review
- Reflect, conclude and put the analysis into perspective

Empirical thesis

- Motivation \hookrightarrow Research question
- Literature review
- Set up a model to test your empirical hypothesis
- Be sure that you can get the data needed for the analysis
- Reflect, conclude and put the analysis into perspective

The Finance Group

We can all supervise a master's thesis in finance – corporate finance, asset pricing, financial markets, credit risk etc. Preferred areas:

- Christian: Corporate finance, dynamic issues, debt/equity choice, corporate investments, private equity
- Alexander: Corporate finance (empirical); banking
- Thiago: Asset pricing; valuation
- David: Corporate finance (empirical); FinTech, risk management
- Steffen: Financial markets, portfolio choice, household finance
- Mo: Financial markets, risk, corporate governance

External supervisors:

- Søren Hesel: Financial markets, derivatives, risk management
- Keven B. Grell: Entrepreneurial finance (VC and PE)
- Thomas Hald: Financial markets, regulation, banking

Examples of thesis in Finance

Christian

- Optimal capital structure with strategic debt service
- Modeling merger waves using the real options approach
- Real options valuation of the Johan Sverdrup Field
- Capital Requirements and the Cost of Bank Capital

Alexander

- The Determinant Factors of IPO Underpricing - Empirical Evidence from Athens Stock Exchange
- Private Equity Performance - An Analysis
- Dynamic capital structure models for financial and non-financial firms

Examples of thesis in Finance

Thiago

- Shipping finance and stock returns of shipping companies
- Predicting Market Return with an International Cross-Section System
- Predicting asset returns - Is it really not possible to gain an advantage?