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COMPILATION THESIS

According to the degree and study regulations 19 § approved by the Council of Turku School of Economics on 18 June 2010, "Several scientific publications, manuscripts approved for publication, or other works fulfilling the corresponding scientific criteria belonging to the same theme, can also be accepted as a licentiate study or doctoral thesis as well as a synopsis prepared from the same in which a research problem, its motivation and scientific position in addition to the goals, methods, findings and conclusions of the research are presented. These publications may also include symposia if the author's separate share in the same can be indicated therein." With this separate instruction, the characteristic features of compilation theses as well as the approval criteria and symposia included therein are specified in a more detailed manner.

The basic types of 'compilation theses' are:

- **article thesis**

This is a publication which is made up of introductory chapters and independent articles already published or approved for publishing that deal with a mutual research problem or problematic whole.

- **essay thesis**

This is a publication which is made up of introductory chapters as well as non-published, independent entities that deal with a mutual research problem or problematic whole. Some of the essay thesis entities can also fulfil the criteria set for article thesis-based articles.

Requirements for a compilation thesis

1. Articles included in a doctoral thesis should be research previously published in scientific journals, publication series under a university, similar institution or other scientific forums, or research in the form of a series manuscript which has been approved for printing in the sort of scientific journal designated above. A letter of approval signed by an editor-in-chief of a publication series should be presented with regard to articles that are still unpublished. Essays included in a doctoral thesis should be intended for publishing or independent entities fit for publishing that are ready to be sent to a respected, refereed publication.
2. The total number of articles/essays is not in itself decisive: rather, it is their scientific contribution, which emerges from both the articles/essays and the summary section. An article thesis should contain at least two scientific articles





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that have been published or approved for publishing in scientific publications respected in their field of science and subject to the referee process, as well as at least one article published in other scientific publication series. An essay thesis should contain at least three essays fulfilling the criteria set in section 1.

3. In addition to articles and/or essays, an abstract conforming to the criteria stipulated in the degree and study regulations 19 § should be included in the thesis, in which the research problem is presented as well as its motivation and the scientific position, goals, results and conclusions of research. In the abstract, the doctoral candidate also binds the articles/essays contained within the thesis together, drawing out the significance of each article/essay from the perspective of the research entity and research findings. The abstract section functions as an introduction to the work, and should be situated at the beginning of the thesis before any articles/essays. The abstract section is the doctoral candidate's own formulation.
4. The articles/essays and summary section should deal with one uniform scientific problem or problematic whole so that the doctoral candidate's own over-all accomplishment meets the requirements otherwise set for a thesis. Each article/essay should contain, as separately examined, new findings or perspectives. In the abstract, central data respective to the research field are segmented and interpreted which the doctoral candidate has, with his/her part publications, accumulated, and proposals with regard to future research targets are made. The abstract should not needlessly repeat the content of the articles/essays: rather, it should offer one's own personal contribution to the work.
5. Separate research, which is made up of publications, articles or essays approved for publication, should first and foremost be based on the doctoral candidate's own research work. Symposia also can, however, be accepted as parts of the article/essay if the doctoral candidate has a separate, clearly indicated share in them. For well-grounded reasons, the same publication can be used as part of another doctoral thesis. Symposia in which the doctoral candidate's role cannot be clearly indicated cannot be affixed as part of the thesis. Parts of a previously published thesis by the author cannot be included within an article/essay thesis.
6. An article thesis containing symposia should be made up of at least four scientific articles, of which a minimum of three have been published or approved for publication in respected scientific publications applying the referee process, and at least one article has been published or approved for publication in other scientific publication series. Of these three, at least one article that has undergone the referee process should have been prepared by the doctoral candidate alone. In place of articles, the doctoral thesis can also have essays that fulfil the criteria specified in section 1.





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Submitting a compilation thesis for preliminary examination

7. The graduate student applies for the assignment of preliminary examiners for his/her research from the Vice Director responsible for research and doctoral studies. The Vice Director appoints preliminary examiners after hearing the Committee for Research and Doctoral Studies. A version of the work to be pre-examined should be attached as an annex to the letter submitted to the registrar's office. The first pages of the manuscript must contain a list of the publications/essays included therein, including the following information: author(s), title, publication, series number, year of publication and page numbers. If the article has not yet been published, it should be marked with the caption: "unpublished".
8. In the event that the manuscript contains symposia with regard to which the share of the doctoral candidate does not clearly emerge, s/he should, in requesting assignment of the preliminary inspectors, present a written clarification of his/her share in each article. This clarification should be signed by the other authors of the symposia. If the symposium has also been used in another doctoral thesis, this must be mentioned in the clarification. This clarification is to be delivered along with the manuscript to the Committee for Research and Doctoral Studies and thereby to the preliminary examiners as well. Corresponding instructions are being applied also as a monograph prepared for a thesis whose background includes cooperative research.
9. The printing of published articles in a doctoral thesis requires the acquisition of written permission from the publisher. Obtaining this permission is the responsibility of the doctoral candidate, and in requesting printing authorization, s/he should supply the Committee for Research and Doctoral Studies with the publication permits for each article concerned. Without the publisher's permission, the published article cannot be printed as part of the thesis. The responsibility for taking thesis-related copyright matters into consideration must be assumed by the doctoral candidate.

Preliminary examination and approval of a compilation thesis

10. The preliminary examiners should declare in their statements whether or not the doctoral thesis can be issued a printing permit. The statement should also include assessment concerning whether or not the abstract section and articles/essays form a complete entity, as well as whether or not the entity corresponds otherwise to the demands set for a thesis. In this respect, the preliminary examiners should also evaluate the personal contribution of the doctoral candidate, so that the compilation thesis can be defended as his/her own thesis. The preliminary examiners may, if they wish to do so, make proposals for





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change; in an article-based thesis, however, only with respect to the work's summary section – in an essay-based thesis, the essays as well.

11. The evaluation of a compilation thesis is not based on the total number or character of the articles/essays, but rather the doctoral candidate's contribution in each article/essay separately in addition to as a whole with the abstract section. On the other hand, the abstract section has a pivotal role, because the problem framework is brought to the fore as well as the position, methods and research findings as a whole. The articles should also be assessed internally, even if they have appeared previously in scientific journals observing referee procedure.

