

Recommended thesis outline:

Cover page with Meduniwien logo

Declaration (numerated as ii) regarding where the work was done (Institutes, laboratories) and what part of the work was carried out by people other than the student (contributions of collaborators, technicians, and supervisors). The Declaration should also include a prominent disclosure of any algorithms used for translation, plagiarism prevention or improving the fluency and grammar of the text, thereby protecting students from any possible future accusations of deception.

Table of contents (iii and onwards), with no more than three numerated layers (i.e. 1.1.1 followed by 1.1.2, etc. Avoid 1.2.3.4 and instead consider italicizing further subtitles).

A prologue (2.1) should help the reader link the Introduction to the student's first paper, and additionally underline the student's specific contributions to the inserted published work. Similarly, the interludes (2.1.1 etc) should assist the student to link any subsequent papers to the previous ones, making for better reading but also reaffirming student contribution to the chronicled work.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

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REFERENCES.....101 and onwards

According to EMBO J

APPENDIX followed by a CV

Explanations to writing a PhD thesis at Meduniwien:

First and foremost, five golden rules for avoiding plagiarism:

- 1) Inform yourself of the meaning of plagiarism, self plagiarism, and deceit of reviewers into thinking that you are presenting novel text and findings;
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To reduce student workload, Meduniwien allows doctoral candidates to insert into the Results section their own publications using PDFs or reprints of their journal articles, pending permission from the publishers (see www.copyright.com). When these are not yet available, students should include watermarked PDFs of their accepted papers. However, since the quality of the literary effort involved in composing a thesis is seen as a cardinal component in the decision to award the PhD degree, the Introduction as well as Discussion must be written from scratch. Although a student's previously published literature review may be included in the Introduction, at least 10 pages of it must be freshly authored. Materials and methods (M & M) should be written in a manner commensurate with scientific publications (and not in bullet form). Text should be typed in Arial 11, black, 1.5 spacing, justified. M & M can be shorter if space is required elsewhere. Students are encouraged to draw their own diagrams. M & M are not meant to be the section describing what was actually done (this should be described in the Results), but should provide sufficiently detailed description of how experiments were conducted for others to be able to repeat them. You should not deceive reviewers into thinking you had invented a new method when in fact you only modified a previously published one. Students should refrain from using footnotes. Inclusion of extensive sections of previously published text placed between citation marks and properly cited, although not contravening plagiarism rules *per se*, should be kept to an absolute minimum.

As the above outline indicates, a solid cumulative PhD thesis submitted to Meduniwien should extend to about 100 pages. Depending on student output, the Results and M & M chapters will fluctuate in their lengths. However, 30 or so pages of Introduction and about ten to 20 pages of Discussion are expected to be included in the thesis, irrespective of the number of published papers and prepared manuscripts incorporated into the Results chapter.

A doctoral thesis is expected to contain text that is the intellectual product of the student. If, for any reason, a student feels that he or she must rely on an AI algorithm or a writing enhancement tool (Chat-GPT, Grammarly, Google Translate, DeepL, etc.) to translate, generate, or paraphrase texts, this must be indicated as such with an appropriate citation at the end of the relevant paragraph and in the Bibliography. While this indication will serve to defend the student against any claims of reviewer deception, there is no guarantee that the reviewers will be appreciative of ample AI-generated texts in the thesis. Accordingly, theses relying extensively on AI may fail to receive a positive evaluation by the reviewers. Students should note AI-detection algorithms will still recognise machine-generated texts even after being paraphrased by the authors, and that subsequent revised thesis submissions remain marked. Hence, students should be aware that relying on AI may incur a risk, which is solely their own, and it therefore is strongly recommended that they disclose all AI use in the Declaration, the List of Algorithms, the body of the text, and the Bibliography. For more information, please see <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>.

The algorithms and the pages where they were applied should be added to a dedicated list as follows:

Grammarly.....	i, ii, 15-73
ChatGPT.....	1-14, 74-95
DeepL.....	84-89
Yandex.....	100
Quillbot.....	1-153