

Procedure for doing research work for pre-Bologna research master's degrees and doctorates

(Passed by the POP Committee on 1-7-2008)

General description

The aim of research work is to show student's intellectual maturity and research capacity. The work must be original and carried out by the student him or herself under the guidance of a tutor.

Research work can be carried out in two different modalities, depending on the master's degree studied (modality A corresponds to the master's in Advanced Studies in Social Communication and modality B to the master's in Contemporary Cinema and Audiovisual Studies). For research work for a pre-Bologna doctoral programme, one of the two modalities must be chosen explicitly. For the doctorate in Cinema Theory, Analysis and Documentation modality B must be chosen.

Modality A

This consists of a research project to be carried out as a doctoral thesis. The project must include at least the following sections:

- a) introduction to the specific subject and arguments in favour of its importance, novelty and academic relevance;
- b) the state of the question;
- c) research problem, aims and/or hypotheses;
- d) methodology, specifying the object of study and the research techniques;
- e) structure and contents of the research to be carried out, definition of the main concepts around which the research is to be construed;
- f) bibliography, documentation and materials necessary for the aims of the research.

It must be a brief piece of work, between sixty and one hundred standard pages in length (approx. 2,100 characters per page).

Modality B

Research work to go into greater depth on a subject that shall serve as preparation and training for doctoral research. It shall include at least the following sections:

- a) introduction to the specific subject and arguments in favour of its importance, novelty and academic relevance;
- b) aims and/or hypotheses;
- c) methodology, specifying the object of study and the research techniques; d) application of the methodology to a limited field of research
- e) bibliography, filmography or documentation necessary for the aims of the research. It must be a brief piece of work, between sixty and one hundred standard pages in length (approx. 2,100 characters per page). It may be accompanied by an audiovisual piece presented on any digital medium.

The two modalities aim for the student to acquire the following knowledge:

- Disciplinary knowledge.
- Methodological knowledge.

The capacities and skills acquired by the student in either modality must be as follow:

- The ability to gather, select, systematize and manage information, documentation and bibliographical materials.
- The capacity to design, structure and articulate a research project or academic paper.
- The capacity to pose and form original proposals to solve relevant research problems.
- The capacity to articulate a complex discourse.
- The capacity for criticism and self-criticism.
- The capacity for analysis and synthesis.
- The capacity to work alone.
- Rigour in the presentation of the written material.