

CN-Track Master's Thesis Guidelines

Abstract (250-300 words)

The abstract should be a stand-alone summary of the objectives, methods, results and conclusions of the study

Introduction (4000-6000 words)

The introduction should contain a short review of the relevant literature so as to provide the background for the issue being investigated, the specific objective of the study, the operational definitions of the variables being assessed and a clear statement of the hypothesis being tested.

The general format should be the 'inverted pyramid': starting with the broad theoretical issue tackled in the thesis and refining progressively down to the specific research questions that will be tested, terminating with paragraph(s) illustrating and summarizing the research question(s).

Methods (No word limit but should be clear and concise)

There are no word-limit guidelines for this section but included information should be relevant and the section should be as concise as possible without sacrificing necessary detail or clarity -- there should be sufficient detail to allow replication of the study.

When applicable, the methods should include separate sections for:

- Participants,
- Stimuli and experimental procedures,
- Analysis methods.

Results (No word limit but should be clear and concise)

Results should be reported and described as neutrally as possible, as considerations of their significance and implications should be left for the discussion.

Figures and tables are strongly encouraged.

All statistics should be reported fully (e.g. $F(2,24)=13.2, p<.05$).

All reported results should be relevant and considered in the discussion.

Discussion (2000-3000 words)

In the first paragraph, reintroduce the objective of the work and summarise the main findings.

In the body of this section, discuss all reported results. Place findings in the context of the broader literature and clearly state their theoretical implications.

Consider the broader theoretical implication of the results.

Finally, summarize the main findings and form a clear conclusion.

Reference Style

References should conform to the APA (or similar) style.

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/referencing/icite/apa/quick-guide-to-apa-referencing.aspx>