

Research

How to write a BA thesis?

Department of English Applied Linguistics

Topics to be covered

1. Content of the BA thesis
2. Formal requirements of the BA thesis
3. Submission
4. Marking
5. Further information

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Content Format Submission Marking Information

1. Content of the BA thesis

- 1.1. Quality of the thesis
- 1.2. Sections of the thesis

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Content ●●●●● Format ●●●●● Submission ●●●●● Marking ●●●●● Information ●●●●●




1.1. Quality of the thesis

- The written thesis should convincingly show...
 - the student's **ability to synthesize** the researched material;
 - that he or she is able to **engage in academic work** on a suitable level;
 - his or her knowledge and handling of the **methodological and stylistic requirements** of a piece of written English discourse.

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1.2. Sections

- **BA thesis in English applied linguistics**
 - **Introduction:** formulates a question based on the topic advertised and establishes the rationale for the study;
 - **Body:** compares and contrasts the sources in order to answer the question formulated in the introduction;
 - **Summary and conclusion:** summarizes the analysis and provides an answer to the question.

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2. Formal requirements

2.1. Length and layout
2.2. Documentation

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2.1. Length and layout

- Length: min. 40,000n (approx. 20 pages), max. +10% (without cover pages, contents, references, appendices, etc.)
- Font: Times New Roman 12 pt, double-spaced, with 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins
- Language: English
- Statement of originality

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2.2. Documentation

- min. 5-10 credible, accurate, reasonable, and supported sources required
- APA-style citation (5th ed.)
 - in-text citation (No more than 15% of the thesis can be direct quotation. The rest should be a combination of appropriately referenced **paraphrase and summary** of sources and the thesis writer's **views and own ideas**);
 - references section.

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2.2. Documentation (– cont'd –)

- adequate use and embedding of examples, tables, and figures
- Plagiarism (i.e., the intentional yet uncredited reproduction of someone else's work, ideas, or words) will result in a fail.

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3. Submission

- two printed copies: one bound ("kötött"); one wire/plastic comb bound ("fűzött")
- one electronic copy (Portable Document Format, PDF)
- deadline: **15 May 2009**
- to be submitted to **Building "A", Rm. 17**

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4. Marking

- Content: 50/75 points (66%)
- Language: 25/75 points (33%)
 - Organization
 - Documentation
 - Accuracy (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and length)
 - Appropriacy (vocabulary and style)
 - Statement of originality

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5. Further information

- Formal requirements (including cover sheet requirements, in Hungarian):
 - <http://seas3.elte.hu/seas/studies/graduation/BA/thesis.html>
- Formal requirements (including cover sheet requirements, in English):
 - http://ludens.elte.hu/~deal/pages/thesis_files/formal_requirements.pdf

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5. Further information (– cont'd –)

- Electronic submission requirements (in Hungarian):
 - <http://seas3.elte.hu/seas/studies/graduation/BA/ba-thesis-e-submission.html>
- APA citation guidelines (in English):
 - http://ludens.elte.hu/~deal/pages/thesis_files/apa.pdf
- Sample statement of originality (Certificate of research):
 - <http://seas3.elte.hu/seas/studies/graduation/thesis.html>

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