

## **OPTION 1: GRADUATION PAPER BASED ON RESEARCH**

Research projects can employ qualitative, quantitative or mixed methodology. Students should complete all the steps indicated below. Every step will be carried out under the advisor's supervision and approval.

### **Main Steps**

#### ***Step 1: Proposing a research idea***

Students should come up with a research idea under their advisor's supervision.

The advisor can also suggest the research topic.

#### ***Step 2: Literature Review***

Students should review the literature related to their proposed research idea. Each group should read at least 20 research papers (most of them should be published within the last 10 years) and 2 review papers and if available a meta-analysis.

#### ***Step 3: Summarizing the Literature Review***

Students should summarize research findings within a frame of theory. The summary should include the gaps in the literature and how the proposed idea will help in contributing to this gap.

#### ***Step 4: Posing research questions and/or specifying research hypotheses***

Students should define their research questions and related specific hypotheses.

#### ***Step 5: Participant Recruitment***

Students should define all required details regarding participant characteristics. For instance, students should decide how many participants will be included, how participants will be accessed, and which other participant characteristics will be considered. All of these details should be approved by the supervisor.

#### ***Step 6: Measurement and Procedure***

Regarding measurement, students should identify which measurement tools will be used in the proposed study. For example, for survey type studies, students should inform whether there is a valid and reliable Turkish adaptation. Students should also consider other characteristics of the scale such as whether the scale has a cut-off, whether using the total score is meaningful or not, etc. For experimental research, students are expected to decide which type of material will be used. They should justify why they chose that particular material. For instance, if certain stimuli (e.g., picture, word etc.) will be used as the material, why they prefer to use that particular stimuli should be explained.

Regarding procedure, students should provide detailed information about the design of the study (e.g., randomization, counterbalancing, manipulation, describing control group, double-blind procedure and/or pre-test posttest if available etc.). All other procedures related to the experiment (e.g., whether the study will be conducted in the lab or field) should be described in such a way that a third person who reads these descriptions could

easily replicate the whole procedure. If the study will be based on an observational and/or correlational design, the settings in which observation is being conducted, the presentation order of questionnaires, the verbal or written instructions given to the participants should all be prepared and indicated. In addition, all ethical regulations should be ensured (e.g., informed consent, voluntary participation etc.).

### **Step 7: Data Analysis**

Students should conduct the appropriate analysis under the supervision of their advisors.

(a) Preparing the data for the analysis (N/A for qualitative research projects).

First, you should plan how you will deal with outliers, missing values, normality, and all assumption tests. Students should also plan which software they will use for the analysis (SPSS, R, SAS, AMOS, etc.).

(b) Data analysis

Students should conduct accurate statistical or qualitative analyses for their study.

### **Step 8: Writing a Research Report**

The content of the report should be similar to a research article. Depending on the nature of the research, there might be some minor changes but all should adhere to basic sections of a research article. Final project report should include the following sections.

#### **Introduction**

Introduction should include the presentation and integration of related background literature in relation to pioneering theory about the proposed research. In addition, the significance of the present study and how it will contribute to the literature should be explained. The final section should specify research questions, hypotheses and/or model of the proposed research.

#### **Method**

**Participants:** Sampling and participant information (e.g., demographic characteristics, exclusion criteria, how participants were contacted etc.) should be included.

**Materials:** All measurements should be included with their psychometric properties including the reliability and validity values for the original scales as well as for the current study.

**Procedure:** The procedure section should include all detailed information about the design of the study (e.g., randomization, counterbalancing, manipulation, describing control group, double-blind procedure and/or pre-test posttest if available etc.). All other procedures related to the experiment (e.g., whether the study will be conducted in the lab or field) should be described in such a way that a third person who reads these descriptions could easily replicate the whole procedure.

If the study will be based on an observational and/or correlational design, the settings in which observation is being conducted, the presentation order of questionnaires, the verbal or written instructions given to the participants should all be indicated

The procedure section should also inform how all ethical regulations such as informed consent, debriefing, and voluntary participation were followed. Furthermore, it should include which committee assessed and confirmed the study's ethical standards.

## Results

**Data Analysis:** This part should provide information about how data were prepared for the analysis (missing value, testing of statistical assumptions etc.). It should also include information about which analysis was used.

**Descriptive Statistics:** Descriptive statistics and required information should be given as tables, figures and/or as text information where necessary.

**Inferential Statistics:** Results of all analyses conducted to test the hypotheses should be reported in appropriate order (does not apply to qualitative research projects).

## Discussion

The discussion should include a summary paragraph of the main findings of the study. The following paragraphs should compare and contrast the findings of the present study with previous literature by acknowledging the present study's strengths. Findings of the study should be interpreted and explained within a theory and/or framework. Next, implications (theoretical and/or applied) and contributions of the findings should be explained. Finally, limitations and further suggestions for research should be stated in the discussion.

### Page Limits for the Written Report:

Introduction : min. 4, max. 10 pages

Discussion : min. 4, max. 10 pages