

BAMA THESIS

Doing scientific research when writing a BaMa thesis is not an easy task. Moreover, scientific research is very diverse. Still, there are some **general methodological principals** that you can follow, which are valid in almost any area of expertise. On the **back side** of this flyer you'll find some **tips and tricks**.

A quick start

The first step is always the hardest, a good preparation is a must. You'll need to start by defining the subject and concretize the study question (the main question), the research questions (with the hypothesis) and the key concepts.

A smooth search

You know where and how to find information - scientific literature and references - about the subject. Also, knowing how to refer to your findings, paraphrase and cite is important.

Conducting research

You're acquainted with all the research methodology, the specific procedures or techniques, which are the key for gathering the material, the data which you will need to analyze, the research question and hypothesis.

A smooth conclusion

Your final report needs to be informative, well written and clear. You have to know the content and the layout.



SOS BaMa Thesis: contact the Study Guidance

<https://student.vub.be/en/study-guidance#contact>



Relevant websites

- <https://canvas.vub.be/courses/4647>
- <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/TTA8HH>
- <http://taalunieversum.org/>
- consult a librarian: consulte@biblio.vub.ac.be



TIPS & TRICS



Self-reflection

- Where are you stuck?
- Don't get discouraged, let it go for the moment.
- Make time for feedback
 - Supervisor
 - Family and/or friends
- Look for help
 - Supervisor/assistants
 - Study Guidance: workshops and individual counselling



Do you have troubles starting your research?

- Is your subject sufficiently defined?
- Have you sufficiently specified your problem/ main question?
- Are your research questions / sub-questions concrete and clear?
- Have you worked out a research design to structure your paper?



Do you have troubles in processing your information (data/content)?

- Sort the material found per research question.
- Do you use the right research method and techniques?
- Check whether your research meets the quality criteria!



Do you have problems with writing?

- Discussion and conclusion? Formulate your conclusion clearly and unambiguously, based on the most important points and / or arguments.
- Word choice? Avoid archaic and informal language!
- Spelling and grammar? Have family and / or friends proofread it.
- Bothered by writers' block? Jot down something on paper (if necessary, start rewriting something you've written earlier).