

PhD Thesis Structure and Format

Unity and Coherence of the Thesis

The PhD thesis is a ***unitary monographic work***, focused on a general research question articulated into empirical chapters (approximately three), integrated by a common introduction and conclusion. The work must present an organic structure: the introduction and conclusion serve to explain the logical connection between the different parts, ensuring the overall coherence of the project and outlining a unitary narrative thread.

Relationship between Thesis Chapters and Scientific Articles

The goal of the PhD program is the production of international-level scientific contributions. Therefore, ***empirical chapters may be conceived as potential articles for publication in scientific journals***. However, to ensure the unity of the thesis, each chapter must not merely reproduce the text of a potential article but must be integrated into the monographic structure. This implies, for instance, the removal of mechanical repetitions of common elements (e.g., the same theoretical framework or literature review) that find a comprehensive treatment in the introductory sections of the thesis. While the main contents and results may coincide, the thesis should not be configured as a mere juxtaposition of independent manuscripts.

Unlike a scientific article, which is subject to strict editorial space constraints, a thesis chapter allows for a more exhaustive treatment of the research. In this context, PhD students are encouraged to include supplementary analyses, methodological details, or empirical insights that, in publications, are often summarized, relegated to appendices, or made available only upon request. The chapter thus represents the complete and documented version of the research work, of which the article constitutes the synthesis intended for editorial dissemination.

Scientific Autonomy and Publication Requirements

There is no formal publication requirement for the awarding of the degree, nor is there a strict obligation regarding the number of chapters (the three-empirical-chapter structure is purely indicative). The specific definition of the structure, the number of contributions, and the balance between publishable papers and exploratory chapters is left to the autonomy of the PhD student, under the supervision of their supervisor. Should a chapter have already been published or submitted to a journal, it is sufficient to indicate this in a note at the beginning of the chapter itself.

Technical Requirements and Formatting

There are no predefined requirements regarding formatting aspects such as font or line spacing. The thesis should preferably be written in English; this is mandatory for those wishing to obtain the "***Doctor Europaeus***" certification.