Format for Submitting a Dissertation Paper

One can submit a dissertation paper in one of the following three following formats:

- A dissertation paper in an "ordinary" format

- A dissertation paper in a "collection of chapters" format

- A dissertation paper composed of articles

In all three formats, the paper will include:

1. A cover page: will include the Tel Aviv University logo, the name of the academic unit, the subject of the paper, the name of the student, the name of the advisor(s) and the following text: "an essay in order to receive a 'Doctor of Philosophy degree', submitted to the Tel Aviv University Senate on: ... (date)". The cover page will appear in both Hebrew and English (on both sides of the dissertation).
2. Acknowledgments: after the process of judgment is finalized, a page including acknowledgments can be added to the research paper.
3. Table of contents.
4. Abstract: will be written in both Hebrew and English and succinctly summarize the paper's arguments and the conclusions of the research.
5. A list of shorthands, symbols.

# A dissertation paper in an "ordinary" format

A dissertation paper in an "ordinary" format will include the following chapters:

**Introduction**: will review and summarize what is known in scientific literature about the topic being researched, and present the research questions. It will present the paper's goals and assumptions, and emphasize its scientific contribution.

**Methods and materials**: a chapter that will review the research methods and materials which have been used. It will focus especially on methods that were developed within the framework of the research, or familiar methods that were changed over the course of it.

**Results**: will describe the process of research and its results, and will present them in one or several chapters.

**Discussion**: the chapter will include a discussion about the research paper, its innovations, its conclusions, potential continuation research and additional developments which may stem from it.

**List of literature** (bibliography): the chapter will include a full bibliography of the literature referenced in the research paper and other sources and will appear at the end of the paper. The list will be prepared as is customary for scientific publications in the field.

In addition, in an "ordinary" dissertation paper, an article cannot be included as is as a chapter in the paper. Articles which have been published or accepted for publication can only be attached in the addendum to the paper.

If the “results” are presented in several chapters, the research methods should not be repeated in each chapter.

In addition, a bibliography should not be added at the end of each chapter, but should be concentrated at the end of the paper.

# A dissertation paper in a "collection of chapters" format

A dissertation paper which includes more than one research object can be written in a "collection of chapters" format.

In this format, the paper will be composed of independent chapters written similarly to an article and including an introduction, methods and materials, results and a discussion.

In addition, the thesis will include in its first part a general introduction chapter and at its end a general summary part in order to show the cohesion of the paper: the introduction chapter will present the general research question and the research goals, and the summary will present the message of the paper as a whole and a general discussion of the results.

The list of literature will be concentrated at the end of the paper rather than appear in every chapter separately.

In the "chapter collection" format, you can not combine the print of an article instead of a chapter. The chapters in the collection will only include results of experiments that were conducted by the student.

The paper advisor, together with members of the accompanying committee, will recommend upon the submission of the summary report on a "collection of chapters" format. The recommendation will be brought to the knowledge of a PhD committee in the faculty.

# A dissertation paper composed of articles

Submission of a paper composed of articles is conditional on the approval of an application submitted to the unit committee for research students.

## Conditions for submitting the application

1. At least three original research articles (not review articles) have been published or accepted for publication in leading journals in the field, which conduct judgment procedures.
2. The student made a critical contribution to the articles. They appear as the first author in these articles (with the exception of cases where the order of the authors' appearance is alphabetical, or cases where the advisor appears first).
3. A dissertation paper composed of articles can only include one article where the student's contribution is referred to as equal contribution.
4. An article whose authors include several research students can only appear in two students' dissertation papers, and on the condition that these students had a unique and important contribution - equal contribution.
5. Only articles which were accepted for publication or published after the student's admission as a "Stage 1 research student", and are related to the subject of the dissertation paper as approved in the research proposal, will be considered.

## Submission of the application

The application for the submission of a paper composed of articles will include explanatory letters from the student and advisor, with a copy of the articles attached:

**The student's letter** will address the following subjects:

1. A listing of the articles and where they were published or accepted for publication (for articles which have yet to be published, a confirmation from the journal editors that they have been accepted for publication should be attached).
2. The order of the articles' appearance in the research paper: how they create a continuous and logical structure and match the research subject.
3. Additional chapters of results that didn't make it into the articles and are supposed to be included in the research paper.

**The advisor's letter** will include a reference to the articles and the student's part in every article, according to the following format:

A. The student's contribution to the research and paper writing work.

B. A reference to the student's unique contribution to the article, when the student seeks to include in the paper an article in which they have equal contribution to another author.

C. The quality of the journals in which the articles were published. In addition, the journal's ranking and its "impact factor" according to the Web of Science should be stated.

**The recommendation of the unit committee** - the unit's committee for research students will consider the student and advisor's application.

In the event that it decides to approve the application, it will recommend to the university committee for research students to approve the submission of a dissertation paper composed of articles. The unit committee will also address, in its letter, the quality of the journals in which

the articles were published.

## The structure of a dissertation paper composed of articles

**Introduction**: will include a comprehensive and up-to-date review of the general field of research and a presentation of the research goals. A general review of the articles and the contribution of the work presented in them to the general field of research, the connection between them and how they create a continuous and logical structure.

If it is an experimental paper, the introduction will address the research methods which are not described in the articles, and if necessary a more detailed description of the work methods, including the ones which appear in the articles. Particular emphasis should be put on methods that were developed over the course of the work.

**Articles**: this chapter will include the articles, which will be arranged in order according to the progress of the research, constituting one

integrative study.

**Additional results**: an additional chapter, which will include additional findings by the student which are relevant to the paper and were obtained over the course of the research, can be included.

**Summary**: this chapter will include a comprehensive general discussion of the results of the research and their meaning; the meaning of the results presented in the articles; highlighting the innovations and their contribution to the field.

**List of literature** (bibliography): the chapter will include a list of sources for the introduction and the summary as well as those which don't appear in the articles.

## The paper's language

In a dissertation paper composed of articles, all articles will be in the same language. The manner of submission is subject to Section 76 of the university regulations. In the event that the paper is being submitted in the English language, an abstract in the Hebrew language will also be attached, as required.

## Judgment of the paper

The judgment procedures for a dissertation paper composed of articles will be the standard procedures in accordance with Section 77 of the university regulations. With that said, since it is a paper which was submitted in a special format, a letter to the judges with a general explanation on the subject will be attached. Also attached to the paper being submitted for judgment will be the advisor's letter, addressing the articles and the student's part in them in detail.