

Guidelines for summaries to PhD dissertations, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bergen.

Adopted by the Programme Council for organised research training on 26 October 2011.

Headlines:

Title of the dissertation – This must be specific, concise and comprehensive. It should contain important keywords. (The title is used for indexing purposes and its format is important in relation to traceability in library databases.)

List of abbreviations

Summary (Abstract): Maximum 1 page (background, objective/purpose, materials/methods, results, conclusion and consequences.)

List of articles

Introduction – This shall describe the background to the research work, what the research work is based upon, and shall introduce the fundamental issues discussed in the dissertation. The review of literature must be detailed and present leading knowledge and research while remaining focused on the subject in question, and with a firm basis in relevant original works/publications. The introduction should have an academic and contemporary context and may mention past studies of importance. It may also contain an evaluation of factors considered to be highly relevant or less relevant, with more detailed information provided on this evaluation in the actual dissertation. The use of figures/illustrations improves the quality of the introduction, making it more interesting. The date on which the author completed his/her study of literature shall be specified.

Objective/purpose – This must be presented clearly and concisely with a high degree of linguistic precision, and categorised into main goal and secondary goals.

Materials and methods – The presentation of materials and methods must be clearly laid out but include relevant details. It is advantageous to refer to methods which have already been published/documentated. The presentation should contain a paragraph with a critical evaluation of the choice of methods and techniques (methodological considerations). This applies irrespective of whether quantitative or qualitative methods are utilised. Ethical evaluations shall comply with international standards and necessary approvals shall also be mentioned (for example, in relation to the Norwegian Health Research Act and other relevant legislation and regulations).

Results – These can be described article by article or as a whole. It is advantageous to highlight the description of the most relevant/important finds and observations.

Discussion – This paragraph shall contain a critical evaluation of the author's own academic choices and results. Moreover, the author should describe both strengths and weaknesses in relation to the methods utilised and the results achieved, while referring to existing knowledge. This section shall also highlight the dominant leitmotif in the dissertation. The finds shall be discussed in sequence, with the most important first. It is permitted to provide detail on and, if necessary, correct issues which have not been highlighted in the articles and which may not be mentioned in the articles. If appropriate, the sections for Results and Discussion may be combined instead of forming two separate sections.

Conclusion – This section shall contain a summary of the most important results and a description of how these highlight and respond to the goals set (main goal and any secondary goals) for the work.

Future perspectives – New know-how frequently emerges which generates new problems and opportunities. This section should contain a description of how the work on the dissertation forms the basis for continued work in the field of research. The author may also state here whether he/she feels the results of the dissertation should promote a change of opinion on a specific issue, be it national or international. Should the finds in the dissertation result in amended procedures or new concepts?

Acknowledgements – This section is used to acknowledge and thank persons, groups, sources of funding etc. Be generous!

References – The list should be complete and the author should have read all sources listed. The full title of reference works should be listed here. It is advantageous to list the references in the same order as in the text, so that reference number 1 is the first reference mentioned in the text. The list of references should be formatted as is normal in periodicals. We recommend use of a programme for reference management, such as EndNote or Reference Manager. The reference list must include all sources used for material, figures and tables.

Scope: The summary should be **40-70 pages** long, exclusive of the reference list and actual articles.

Format: Use font: Times New Roman, font size: 13 and line spacing: 1.5.

The compilation of articles shall thus represent a collective presentation of the results and contain an in-depth and up-to-date discussion of the articles as a whole, demonstrating a scientific maturity and that the dissertation is of an international PhD level. It is therefore essential to keep all text concise. Proofread the text several times, removing any redundancies and turns of phrase which are not necessary. Abbreviations make the text more difficult to read and less accessible to persons who may not have up-to-date knowledge of the subject. Abbreviations should therefore be kept to a minimum and restricted to well-established concepts.

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