

Supervision

I supervise bachelor's and master's theses in Environmental, Resource and Energy Economics. The number of theses I can supervise is limited, and priority is given to students who have taken elective courses and seminars in the field of environmental economics. Supervision by one of the post-docs is also possible, subject to their availability. Interested students must send a request for supervision by email to:

philipp.richter@uni-mannheim.de

In your email, make sure to include:

1. Full student name;
2. Matriculation number;
3. Current transcript of grades;
4. Related courses taken (with respective semesters and instructors);
5. Desired submission date;
6. One or more ideas for topics (one short paragraph – ca. 100 words – per idea).
7. If you would like to have one of the post-docs as a supervisor, please indicate that.

You will get a reply to approximately within one week. If we can supervise the thesis, we will set up a meeting and start to develop the topic of the thesis.

Information on final theses

A bachelor's thesis should not be longer than 30 pages, a master's thesis no longer than 50 pages (times new roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing, 2.5 cm margins), excluding bibliography and appendices. For formal requirements, see the "[Guidelines for Bachelor theses](#)" by the Department of Economics at the University of Mannheim (use this reference also for a master's thesis). You will have eight weeks to work on your bachelor's thesis, and four months for a master's thesis. Expect to have two meetings before the start of the eight-week period.

In these meetings, we will refine your research idea and make sure that it is feasible given your time constraints. During the eight weeks, we should have one meeting to make sure you are on track.

A final thesis serves three main purposes:

- **Give you exposure to research.** The ability to conduct independent work is important in the careers that you are likely to pursue after your studies.
- **Develop skills.** The process of researching and writing gives you a great opportunity to develop and learn new skills, like coding, writing, handling data, etc.
- **Show off your abilities.** Your thesis is an opportunity to apply what you learned, and showcase your abilities. In this process, you will give us elements to write a good recommendation letter for job or graduate school applications.

When thinking about your final thesis, you should consider the following:

- **What research skills do you want to develop?** You should take this opportunity to develop skills (e.g., coding in a certain language; working with a specific dataset or type of data; learning a certain statistical method). Figure out what you want to learn or improve. Be reasonable – you will already have to work on your writing skills.
- **What topics interest you?** Maybe you want to learn more about a topic before starting a job that you have lined up; maybe you are passionate about a certain topic since high school, or maybe you came across a certain topic during your studies that instigated your curiosity. Whatever your reasons, choose a topic that genuinely interests you. This will help to keep you motivated during your research, and will make it more fun.
- **Choose a question.** A topic is too broad for a thesis; you will need to come up with one question or issue that you will address. I can help you refine the question you will work on (that's one of the roles of a supervisor).

I don't have a topic or question; what should I do?

- **Read.** Both academic papers and general interest media. For example, the Journal of Economic Perspectives and the Journal of Economic Literature both have excellent and accessible review articles on various topics that can help you with ideas. The Review of Environmental Economics and Policy has a similar format focusing on topics in environmental economics. Read also newspapers, The Economist, and other general interest content.
- **Take a literature research course** by the library "Ehrenhof".