

Thesis Guideline for MD (Pathology)

A short overview of the thesis structure for MD (Pathology) thesis students under BSMMU.

1. Thesis Title page
2. Table of contents
3. Declaration of authorship
4. Certificate of supervisor/ guide
5. List of publication(s) arising from thesis (*at least one article should be submitted - published or unpublished*)
6. List of figures and tables
7. Acknowledgements
8. Dedication (*optional*)
9. Abstract: Introduction, Materials and methods, Observations and results, Conclusion
10. Introduction: Justification and background information
11. Aims and objectives (*general objective and specific objectives*)
12. Hypothesis/ research questions
13. Review of literature
14. Methodology/ Materials and methods/ Patients and methods
15. Observations and results
16. Discussion
17. Summary
18. Conclusion with recommendations
19. References (*Harvard style - Exeter variant*)
20. Appendices
21. Illustrations

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9. Abstract: Introduction, Materials and methods, Observations and results, Conclusion

How to write an abstract in a thesis?

It should have above format (Introduction, Materials & Methods, Observations and results, Conclusion) It generally does not have citations. Information provided in title should not be repeated in abstract. Use numbers where appropriate. Should not exceed more than two pages in single line spacing or three or four double spaced pages.

It should convey the area of interest, the knowledge gaps revealed by analysis of existing literature, research aims and questions, the methodology to be employed to answer these questions and address the aims, the outcome of the studies, their connection to previous result, and the implications of the results. Finally an abstract should include a sentence or two about the future directions.

10. Introduction: Justification and background information

How to write the introduction?

- a) Review current knowledge in the field relevant to the thesis and specify knowledge gaps in this field,
- b) state the purpose of the work in the form of the hypothesis, or research question, or research problem,
- c) briefly explain the rationale - a number of standard arguments can be used to defend the research work and can be used in the development of your rationale,
- d) methodological approach,
- e) highlight the potential outcomes that can be revealed, and
- f) whether this issue has been addressed before or not.

11. Aims and objectives (general objective and specific objectives)

12. Hypothesis/ research questions

13. Review of literature

How to write review of literature?

- a) Give a historical background of the topic being studied,
- b) describe the relationship of each work to the others under consideration,
- c) identify new ways to interpret, and shed light on any gaps in previous research,
- d) resolve conflicts amongst seemingly contradictory previous studies
- e) point the way in fulfilling a need for additional research.

14. Methodology/ Materials and methods/ Patients and methods

How to write methodology?

- a) Study type, place and time.
- b) Description of study variables.
- c) Description of study subjects, sample size determination and grouping.
- d) Selection criteria (inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria)
- e) Approval of the study by ethical review committee.
- f) Description of gross procedure of submitted specimen or collection technique, methods of staining or molecular technique(s) and their quantification, apparatus, drugs or chemicals as applicable.
- g) Description of statistical procedure with explanation.

15. Observations and results

How to write observations and results?

- a) Present result in logical sequence in text, table and illustration (charts, e.g. pie chart, bar chart etc.) with most important finding first.
- b) Describe without comment.
- c) Do not duplicate data in tables and figures.

16. Discussion

How to write discussion?

- a) Begin by briefly re-stating the research problem/ question(s) you were investigating and answer all of the research questions underpinning the problem that you posed in the introduction.
- b) State the major findings of the research

- c) Explain the meaning of the findings and why they are important. Begin this part of the section by repeating what you consider to be your most important finding first.
- d) Consider alternative explanations of the findings - if a study that you cited disagrees with your findings, don't ignore it - clearly explain why the study's findings differ from yours.
- e) Acknowledge the study's limitations and make suggestions for further research.

17. Summary

18. Conclusion with recommendations

How to write summary and conclusion chapters?

Couple of double spaced pages should be adequate where

- a) Summary of outcome of the literature review should be given and restate the aims of the thesis along with research questions,
- b) major findings of the thesis and how they integrate with previous works i.e. how was it similar to and/or different from the previous research will be mentioned,
- c) strength and limitations of the research have to be included, and
- d) future avenues of research and questions arising from the research should be given.

19. References

Must be Harvard style (Exeter variant).

Find details here: https://www.eriesjournal.com/public/site/harvard_referencing.pdf

20. Appendices

21. Illustrations

Photographs only; NOT pie chart, bar diagram etc. to be included here.

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