

Summary¹

The summary has to give a picture of the research that has been done. The text is scientifically sound, but has to be comprehensible for readers that are not familiar with the research. The summary has the format of an abstract. To include the summary in the thesis/research master thesis, there is no need for a separate permission. The assessment of the thesis/research master thesis will give a point for the entire work, including the summary. The summary is required for all students from the January 2012 examination period.

The summary is written in font size 10 and line spacing 1.5. The summary consists of 300 to 500 words (maximum one page). The summary is put in front of the thesis/research master thesis, on the right page. The opposite left page is left blank. Concerning the format: do not use bold or under-line; italic is allowed.

The summary will be edited according to the format in the template “example of the summary”. It states the name of the student, the title, the promoter, the examination period and the academic year. In case one or two co-promoters have supported the student in addition to the promoter, they will be mentioned.

Example of the summary:

First name, FAMILY NAME, Title. Subtitle.

Thesis/research master thesis presented to obtain the degree of Master ...

Examination period & year: (month) 201x

Promoter:

Co-promoter:

The summary normally also consists of:

- *Topic and purpose of the study*: the summary of a thesis/research master thesis starts with a brief introduction that situates the problem formulation and clarifies its importance. Depending on the topic, a typical example can be quoted in the introduction. One starts a new paragraph to differentiate between the introduction and the discussion.
- *Short outline of the used research methods and brief description of the results or type of results*: subsequently the research itself is described. This is the most extensive part of the summary. In this part you describe the matter the thesis/research master thesis is about, the exact problem formulation, the research method and the most important conclusions. This can be done by briefly describing the different chapters. You can start a new paragraph for every new chapter. If the type of research allows it, you can write a discussion that is not related to the classification in chapters. For this, try to use a coherent line of reasoning instead of listing isolated elements. Accurately describe the content of the thesis/research master thesis. Be brief but complete, without going into details. Do not mention effect sizes or references (except for when the reference is the basis for your thesis/research master thesis).
- *Conclusion or type of conclusions*: in a concluding paragraph the most important conclusions are described. A short recommendation or reflection can be done.

¹ This document is partly taken from: K.U.Leuven Faculteit Psychologie en Pedagogische Wetenschappen. 2011. *Nota Masterproef: Opzet, procedure en richtlijnen*. Internet: http://ppw.kuleuven.be/home/studentenportaal/master/masterproef-en-stage-2011-2012/NotaMasterproefPPW_2011.pdf.