

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Kristina Ratajová
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc.
Title of the thesis:	Strategic Management of a Project Portfolio in a Consulting Firm

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

The thesis is of a narrative type with focus on the strategic management. The main goal is claimed to be the understanding the project portfolio management using case study approach. The topic itself and method of analysis is chosen suitably, however the final work has should be in my perspective done differently to receive the highest mark.

Contribution

The thesis brings contribution to the analyses firm, but on academic level, the thesis should also bring something which I am not explicitly finding in the thesis. Even confirmation of some theory/finding is a contribution, but I could not find it. The topic itself is part of the bachelor curriculum at IES, yet the details had to be studies by the student herself.

Methods

The thesis uses standard method of case study and interview with managers. That is fine, however I am missing any empirical/graphical/narrative evaluation of the questionnaire in the thesis. I understands, that the student used the answers in the analysis, but it is unclear how and what the managers answered. How many were interviewed? The student was herself employed by the firm, did she suffered from any form of bias or is the analysis from really outside perspective? How was the the questionnaire created? Any supporting literature for the questions?

Literature

The student works with the literature correctly and uses relevant sources. Literature covering the topic of project management in general is fine. I am missing more supporting literature about case study and process of evaluation as such. Building on the questionnaire is not an easy task and following previous studies (there will be plenty academic papers using case studies) should be an essential part of a bachelor thesis.

Manuscript form

The manuscript itself is easily readable with clear structure. Usage of the standardized LaTeX template helps a lot and I appreciate it. I would appreciate more detailed labelling and description of the tables and figures itself, especially when they are using a lot of abbreviations. Same hold for figures, when e.g. on Figure 16 it is unclear, what is depicted and meaning of colours is hidden deeply in the text.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defence

Overall the thesis is written with care, yet the focus is shifted towards unsupported actions of the student writing the thesis. More clarity and transparency should be present in the thesis even though the name of the company is unknown. For the reader it would be also easier to create a name for the firm and use it in the thesis.

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Kristina Ratajová
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc.
Title of the thesis:	Strategic Management of a Project Portfolio in a Consulting Firm

For the defence I would ask the author to elaborate about her questionnaire and how it was used in the thesis, since that is a crucial part of the case study and I formed my evaluation based on this assumption.

I recommend the thesis for defence and for reasons stated above I suggest grade D.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	15
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	68
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	C

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák

DATE OF EVALUATION: 30. 5. 2019



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F