

Recommended structure of the synopsis

The synopsis should be between 50 and 80 pages long, not counting the reference list and actual articles. Extensive use of tables and figures may justify a longer synopsis.

- *The title of the thesis*: The title of the thesis must be specific, concise, and appropriate. It should contain important keywords. (The title is used for indexing purposes and its format is important for traceability in library databases).
- *List of abbreviations*: The synopsis must include a list of all abbreviations used in the thesis.
- *Scientific environment*: This is where the name of the faculty (ies)/department(s)/centre(s)/research group(s)/research school involved in the study should be mentioned.
- *Acknowledgements*: This section is used to acknowledge and thank persons, groups, sources of funding etc. Be generous! (This could also be placed before “References”).
- *Summary (abstract)*: Maximum 1 page (background, objective/purpose, materials/methods, results, conclusions, and consequences). The thesis must contain an abstract in both Norwegian and English.
- *List of papers*: The synopsis must contain a list of all papers that are included in the thesis. The list must include all authors for each paper, the title, and the publication where the paper has been published (if applicable).
- *Introduction to the synopsis*: The introduction to the synopsis shall describe the background for the PhD project, and introduce the fundamental issues discussed in the thesis. The overall objective of the study must be presented clearly and concisely with a high degree of linguistic precision and categorised into main goal and secondary goals. The sustainability element is introduced in the MEDMET basic course, and the introduction can include a reflection on this in relation to the research project's scope.

The literature review 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. The date on which the author completed his/her study of literature shall be specified.

- *Materials and methods*: The presentation of materials and methods must be clearly described and should include relevant details. It is advantageous to refer to methods which have already been published/documented. A critical evaluation of the choice of methods and techniques (methodological considerations) should be included if they are not mentioned in the discussion. This applies irrespective of whether quantitative or qualitative methods are utilised. Ethical considerations shall comply with international standards and necessary approvals shall also be mentioned (for example, in relation to the Norwegian Health Research Act, GDPR and other relevant legislation and regulations).

- *Results*: The results can be described paper by paper or as a whole. It is advantageous to highlight the description of the most relevant/important findings and observations.
- *Discussion*: The discussion shall contain a critical evaluation of the author's own academic choices and results. Moreover, the author should describe both strengths and weaknesses of the methods used and the results achieved, while referring to existing knowledge. This section shall also highlight how the individual parts of the thesis are connected to each other. The discussion is the candidate's opportunity to showcase their academic maturity and development by extending and, if necessary correct, aspects of the papers. Where appropriate, the sections for Results and Discussion may be combined into one chapter.
- *Conclusion*: The conclusion shall summarize the most important results and describe how they highlight and respond to the objectives set in the introduction.
- *Future perspectives*: New knowledge often generates new problems and opportunities. The section on future perspectives must contain a description of how the work on the thesis forms the basis for continued work in the field of research. The author may also state if the results of the thesis promote a change of opinion on a specific issue, be it national or international. Will the findings in the thesis result in new or amended procedures or new concepts?
- *Literature list/References*: The literature list should be complete and the PhD candidate must have read all sources listed. The full title of referenced work must be listed here. Listing the references in the same order as in the text is preferred, meaning that reference number 1 is the first reference mentioned in the text. The list of references should be formatted as in journals. Use of a program for reference management, such as EndNote or Reference Manager is recommended. The reference list must include all sources used for material, including figures and tables.