

*Remark: Following Information is based on contents of general DHBW instructions for practical work projects, student research projects and bachelor theses and contains general and specific details of degree program Business Administration and Engineering*

## Scope of the student research project

The student research project is a scientific work. In contradiction to the bachelor theses the student research project is done at the university and not within the student sending company.

The student shall learn to solve a given topic in an adequate time frame. He brings in his knowledge of more than 2 years of studying until he begins this project. He deepens this knowledge according to the topic of the project. Thus he learns to work scientifically, that means literature research, handling of scientific sources and formally correct documentation of a scientific work.

## Selection of topic

### Scientific demand

The topic should be use-oriented, but as well should have a theoretical scientific character. Topics, which focus only on concrete problems within enterprises normally are suited for bachelor theses but not for student research projects.

### Duration and complexity of work

The topic should afford about 150 hours of working time (conform to 5 ETCS - Credit points). The documentation normally should cover from 40 to 70 pages. If a topic seems to be too complex, it has to be reduced to special aspects. Topics which need less effort must not be placed.

### Scientific requirements

The topic of the student research project must not be trivial. It must considerably exceed standard teaching contents, which are referenced in standard literature and which are objects of introduction courses.

### Disciplines

The topic of the student research project is normally taken from one of the main disciplines of the study program: economics, engineering, informatics. Additionally other disciplines are possible if the interdisciplinary character in the field of economical engineering is shown.

### Actuality

The topic of the student research project should have actual relevance.

## Supervision

The student works in the student research project under instruction of the supervisor but mainly on his own. Supervisors normally are members of the university teaching staff. Supervisors from universities, cooperating with DHBW in a student exchange program are also possible.

The supervisor instructs the student,

- to set up a conception for the project, which is shown by a structure, by a planned proceeding and a short project time schedule,
- to make the topic accessible by using state of the art literature,
- to search for and to evaluate alternative solution concepts,
- to select critically a method und to document self-reflecting weaknesses and further possible steps,
- to document scope and solutions of the project in a level of speech which corresponds to scientific requirements and which is suitable for publication and
- to use the possibilities of modern text proceeding software, if necessary.

A successful supervision of a student research project requires at least 3 discussions/meetings with following contents:

1. Introduction in the topic, eventually first hints for state of the art literature
2. Discussion of structure and an first outline, which describes motivation, targets and planned proceeding
3. Discussion of main results before beginning of final documentation of the student research project.

The student is responsible for initiation of meetings/discussion. Email contacts and/or telecoms are also possible, but at least one face to face meeting is required.

After completing the student research project the student delivers the documentation as follows:

- one exemplar directly to the supervisor (paper version and/or electronic form depends on requirements of the supervisor)
- one exemplar in the DHBW Stuttgart WIW office (paper version and electronic form)

If two ore more students work on the same topic the supervisor must make sure, that each students contributes to the solution, that he can differentiate these contributions and that he can grade the students individually. Therefore the topic has to be split in partial aspects.

## Requirements

The student research project must correspond to the requirements of scientific work. That means:

- Well-founded knowledge of the state of the art is essential foundation for the own analysis and solutions proposals derived from the analysis
- This knowledge must be proved by referenced adequate literature. This literature must contain standard literature and path-breaking publications (monographs and/or articles) to the special topic.
- The student must use a unique form of citation.
- The provided work must cover all aspects of the original topic.

- If it is reasonable from point of view of the topic the student should show that he is educated interdisciplinary. Both, economical and technical aspects of the topic should be discussed and solved.
- For more detailed requirements please refer to the Evaluation scheme (link see below) for student research projects and bachelor theses.

## Evaluation

The supervisor evaluates the results of the student research project based on an evaluation scheme, provided by the faculty "Technik" of the DHBW ([DHBW Evaluation Scheme](#)). Evaluation Criteria are specified and explained.

The supervisor checks the documentation if all citation is correct. If there are citations from literature and/or Internet, which are not correctly marked, this is recognized as plagiarism and the student research project will be graded "failed" (Note 5,0). In this case the supervisor contacts the leader of the study program. Additionally the DHBW is testing all released student research projects for correct citation based on a "plagiarism finding software"

The supervisor must consider, if the student found and used important scientific literature. An Internet search for important actual publication must complete the literature search but cannot replace basic state of the art publications. The student must understand and describe the actual state of the art related to his topic and additionally find an own approach, solutions methods or interpretation.

The linguistic level of the documented should reach a level which is required for scientific work. Long lists of keywords and the use of slang are inadequate. It must be paid attention on a fluent and adequate wording.

A documented study research project, which fulfils the upper mentioned normal requirements should be graded on with „good“ (Note 2,0). If one or more criteria are not completely fulfilled, these criteria are graded less. A project is graded better than "good" (Note 2,0) only if results exceed the normal requirements.