

Dissertation Guidelines for MEF Students

Where to start

Information for graduating students, including deadlines, calendar, rules and formal requirements, can be found on the dedicated section of the MEF programme's website:

<https://mef.cdl.unimi.it/en/study/graduating>

Timeline

- 12-10 months to graduation: start thinking about a topic, read the academic literature dealing with it and formulate a clear and precise research question.
- 10-8 months to graduation: contact a supervisor. Before doing that, please consult her/his UNIMI webpage (<https://www.unimi.it/en/who-and-where>) to check whether your proposal overlaps, at least partly, with the Professor's research expertise. This is also the time for preparing a table of contents of your thesis with the list of chapters and a summary of their content.
- 8-4 month to graduation: survey of the literature, data collection and first empirical analyses.
- 4-1 months to graduation: finalize empirical analyses, if any, and write your thesis.
- 1 month to graduation: slides.

What is Expected From You?

What does the Supervisor expect from you?

- A clear research/thesis proposal.
- Autonomous review of the literature
- Autonomous data collection
- Autonomous data analysis
- Frequent communications using (only) emails and office hours
- Compliance with UNIMI's Code of Ethics that condemns all forms of plagiarism (<https://www.unimi.it/en/university/legislation/code-ethics>)

What you should not expect from the Supervisor?

- Spell check the thesis
- Providing data
- Assistance with the empirical analyses

Resources

Softwares and computing facilities:

- Softwares available to UNIMI students: https://work.unimi.it/servizi/servizi_tec/1268.htm
- Office software suites (e.g. for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, ...) :
 - MS Word, G Suite, Open Office, ...
- Latex might also be considered as text editor for quantitative theses:
 - Overleaf (the easiest option)
 - TeXnicCenter (<https://www.texniccenter.org/>)
 - TeXstudio (<https://www.texstudio.org/>)
- Data analysis:
 - Commercial softwares available to UNIMI students: Stata, Matlab
 - Open source softwares: R, Gretl, Phyton,...
- Students developing computationally intensive theses might benefit from using INDACO, the computing infrastructure of UNIMI: <https://www.indaco.unimi.it/index.php/registrazione-unimi/>

Resources

Data and other resources:

Bibliographic resources (books and e-books, journals, videos, articles, digital media, and more) Minerva: <https://www.sba.unimi.it/en/digital-library/46.html>.

Databases accessible from Minerva (Minerva>Database Search): to access databases organized by category:

- AIDA: is an Italian business database providing detailed financial information on Italian companies. It includes financial statements, ownership structures, and other key corporate information. (<https://login.bvdinfo.com/R0/AidaNeo>).
- Refinitiv Eikon: is a comprehensive financial analysis and trading platform offering real-time market data, news, analytics, and trading tools across various asset classes such as equities, commodities, forex, and fixed income. (<https://eikon.refinitiv.com/>)

Resources

Data and other resources:

- Eikon DFO: is a specialized version of Refinitiv Eikon designed to provide optimized data feeds for high-frequency trading and other applications requiring fast and reliable financial data. (<https://www.sba.unimi.it/BibliotecaDigitale/10998.html>)
- ORBIS: is a global database of company information and business intelligence, offering detailed information on private and public companies worldwide. It includes financials, corporate structures, market data, and M&A activity. (<https://login.bvdinfo.com/R1/Orbis/SignIn>)
- Zephyr: is a database focused on mergers and acquisitions (M&A), IPOs, and venture capital deals. It provides detailed information on transactions, including deal values, participants, and financial advisors involved. (<https://login.bvdinfo.com/R0/ZephyrNeo>)

The library offers courses and tutorials for graduating UNIMI students:
<https://www.sba.unimi.it/en/tools/10546.html>

Thank You!