



# How to write your thesis successfully: experience sharing

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# Points to consider

1. Find out your area of interest
2. Look for a professor
3. Look for a topic
4. Plan your work
5. Organise your stay abroad
6. Collect your data
7. Analyse your data
8. Write your thesis
9. Defend your thesis

# Find out your area of interest

- ▶ Start prior to the beginning of the program
- ▶ Shrink later on

## Look for a professor

- ▶ According to the area of interest
- ▶ According to personal affinities

## Look for a topic

- Given topic
- Own topic

## Plan your work

- Have a timetable and a budget
- Write a concept note or a full proposal (keep your eyes on funding sources' deadlines)

# Organise your stay abroad

- Contact potential hosting institutions
- Know the available facilities
- Start to make contacts in the field
- Draft your questionnaires before travelling
- List all people you might need to interview
- List all the data that might be of interest to collect
- Once in the field monitor your lists

## Collect your data

- Collect as much data as possible
- Print your questionnaires on both sides (easy to transport)

## Analyse your data

- Start with the analysis when still in the field
- Return the first findings to the appreciation of the stakeholders (if possible, use illustrations: maps & graphs)

# Write your thesis

- Put everything together
- Try to find out a logical line (a nice story to tell)
- Make tandems with other fellows to read your paper
- Attend seminars in scientific writing skills
- Check regularly with your prof
- When submitting your draft to your prof, do not hesitate to draw his attention on the points you think your analysis is weak

# Defend your thesis

- Defence scheduled 2 - 3 weeks after submission
- Prepare your PowerPoint and Put only the necessary information. Keep the rest in appendix for discussion
- Repeat 3-4 times your speech before the due date (in tandems with fellows or in front of family & friends)
- Think about the plausible questions that might be asked & prepare your answers

PS: Do not be nervous and dress properly 😊



GOOD LUCK!!!

