Thesis Report

Institution: Joint program component

Year: Year 1

Course type: Core program component: a research component

Assessment: 100% assignment (report of 6,000 words)

ECTS: 10

Brief description (including learning outcomes): Mundus MAPP includes a significant research training and an independent research component, preparing students for further studies and/or jobs requiring research skills following their graduation.

Work on the student's research project starts with a short statement of thesis topic, submitted to ISS/CEU PU by April of year 1, stating a preference for a supervisor at the first-year institution, who will act as a primary supervisor in the first academic year. In the following month, a second supervisor from York/IBEI will be allocated to the student, with this faculty member taking over primary supervisory responsibilities from the ISS/CEU PU supervisors when students progress from Year 1 to 2. The two supervisors will collaborate and jointly advise the student during the two years of the program until the thesis is submitted.

The Thesis Report should be written after coursework finishes in the first academic year. The report serves as an advanced thesis proposal which already covers considerable ground for the thesis itself, to be written in Year 2. The report will be a paper of 6,000 words (+/-10%, all included, except for bibliography), which contains a problem specification (research question/ rationale), initial literature review, methods and, where appropriate, hypotheses and case study selection, as well as work plan detailing deadlines the student intends to observe for writing the different parts of the thesis. The topic of the Thesis Report (and by extension the thesis) should be relevant to the student's mobility track.

The report is due by August 31 of Year 1, and is jointly graded by the two supervisors, each contributing half the final grade. Students receive detailed comments from the examiners, and a single grade allocated in the Mundus MAPP (ECTS)ISS/CEU PU grading scheme.

Learning objectives: With the report the student demonstrates the capacity to:

- identify a research topic;
- formulate research questions;
- undertake an initial literature review;
- choose an adequate methodology to research the problem;
- present a convincing proposal for the final thesis, including a statement regarding the objectives of the research, a research question, a short review of the relevant theoretical background, and a statement on the methodology.

In general terms, the Thesis Report should achieve the following objectives:

- Lead us from a general to a specific topic;
- Indicate that there is a gap, an area or puzzle that is unanswered or unresolved;
- State a research question (as a question, where theoretically and methodologically appropriate);
- Develop a theoretical framework;
- Indicate how the research question/s will be answered (i.e. what methodologies you have chosen);
- Point to the value of this research, either practical (how it will benefit policy) or academic (how it will advance our knowledge);
- Provide an initial review of relevant literature and indicate how it will help you deal with the chosen topic;
- Provide a work plan with deadlines and deliverables up to the end of the thesis writing period. For more specific information about the thesis report assessment criteria at CEU and at ISS please consult *Annexes IV* and *V*.

The Thesis Report will be marked in the Mundus MAPP (ECTS) grading scale, using the following assessment criteria explained in *Annexes IV* and *V*.