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## MSc Degree in Management Engineering

# How to write the Long Abstract of the Master Thesis

The long abstract should:

- Summarize the whole master thesis work.
- Be able to stand alone.
- Report the essential facts contained within the master thesis.

For these reasons, it is recommended that the long abstract is written only when the thesis work is almost at the end (ideally after the thesis is complete).

The length of the long abstract should be 5-10 pages, font type *Times New Roman*, font size 12, line spacing 1.5 and margins 2 cm on the top, bottom, right and left sides of the page.

The first page should be the frontispiece (“frontespizio”) of the thesis. Below the title, just add “LONG ABSTRACT”

The following points should always be clearly featured (preferably include them as Sections of the Long Abstract):

- **Purpose:** This is where you explain ‘why’ you undertook this work. If you are presenting a consultancy-like work (a project), explain the problem that you have solved (clearly write the problem statement). If you are presenting a research work, explain the research question/s. Contextualize the motivation of your work upon previous research (scientific literature), briefly explain why you felt it was important to do so. This is your opportunity to let readers know why you chose to study this topic or problem and its relevance. Let them know your key argumentations (for example your conceptual model or your hypotheses or your design solution).
- **Study design/methodology/approach:** This is ‘how’ you did it. Let readers know exactly what you did to reach your results. For example, is it a qualitative or quantitative study? Did you undertake interviews? Did you collect and analyze data from secondary data sources? Did you examine a case study? What tools, methods, protocols or datasets did you use?
- **Findings (or expected results):** Here you can explain ‘what’ you found during your study, whether it answers the problem you set out to explore (or answers the research questions). You need to be very clear and direct, giving exact figures and results, rather than generalize. It’s important not to exaggerate or create an expectation that your thesis won’t fulfill.
- **Originality/value:** This is your opportunity to provide readers with an analysis of the value of your results in terms of contribution to the literature and/or implications for managerial practice. You can also conjecture what future work steps could be.