



Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences

## **Vice Dean for Research Faculty of Medicine**

### **Guidelines for Writing MD, Master's, and PhD Theses for International Students at Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences**

#### **Students' thesis**

- 1- Preparing a thesis is an essential component of the MSc, General Medicine, and PhD programs. In this process, students are required to conduct a research project related to their field of study and educational level under the guidance of their supervisor and advisors. The results of this research are then presented in the form of a thesis.
- 2- Master's students are required to finalize their thesis topic by the end of their third semester and secure approval from the Vice Dean for Research and Postgraduate Education Council. (refer to A1 and B1 forms)

#### ***Notes:***

-Students must complete a research methods course before their thesis receives approval.

- 3- The supervisor, in collaboration with the student, determines the thesis topic, which may include areas such as in silico studies or systematic reviews.

#### ***Notes:***

-Conducting studies on the country's macro health requires approval from the Vice Dean for Research and International Affairs Department. This approval process ensures that all such endeavors align with the University's ethical guidelines, research protocols, and international engagement strategies.

- 4- After selecting the thesis, the students are required to register for it in the following semesters according to the academic calendar. However, the grade of the thesis from the last academic semester will be considered in the students' record and included in both the semester's average and the total average grades.

- 5- The maximum number of theses of international students that each supervisor can supervise simultaneously is five theses.
- 6- In exceptional circumstances, the decision-making regarding the simultaneous guidance of more than the above number of theses is the responsibility of the Vice Dean for Research and Postgraduate Education Council.
- 7- With the supervisor's suggestion and the approval of the Vice Dean for Research and the Graduate Education Council, one or two faculty members or prominent experts and researchers related to the thesis topic can be selected as advisor professor/s.
- 8- A second supervisor or an advisor can be selected from the home country. Their selection is based on the B2 guidelines. (How to Select an Off-Campus Second Supervisor or Advisor: A Guide for International Students)
- 9- The thesis is evaluated at the defense session by a panel consisting of the, supervisor/s, advisor/s and one representative of the Vice Dean for Research and two faculty members or experts and researchers inside or outside the university as reviewers with the right to vote, proposed by the Department and approved by the Vice Dean for Research.

***Notes:***

- The advisor who is a citizen of the home country is allowed to participate in the meetings virtually as well. Still, they must accompany and actively supervise the thesis in all stages.
- 10- The students are allowed to defend their thesis once they have successfully completed all their educational courses and the supervisor has announced the thesis's completion to the Vice Dean for Research.

11- At the end of the defense session, after examining the originality and correctness of the thesis, the jury levels its score, according to the following table:

| Score        | Degree       |
|--------------|--------------|
| 18-20        | Excellent    |
| 17-17.99     | Very well    |
| 15.5-16.99   | Good         |
| 14-15.49     | Acceptable   |
| Less than 14 | Unacceptable |

12- Students should submit a draft of the article derived from their thesis before defending it. Additionally, if the paper is accepted or published in reputable scientific journals within six months, they are eligible to receive up to two extra points.

**Notes:**

- 1- The maximum score for students without an article, is 18.
- 2- Students conducting a systematic review for their thesis must have their paper accepted or published before they can proceed with their defense.

If the thesis budget exceeds \$150, the paper must be submitted in compliance with university regulations.

13- The thesis grade is calculated as the average of the students' total score.

14- If the thesis is deemed unacceptable by the jury, the students can complete and resubmit it for defense at a time determined by the jury. (in a way that does not exceed the maximum period of his education)

15- The final version of the thesis for international students should be submitted to the Vice Dean for Research.

16- Tuition fees for supervisors and advisors in student thesis will be calculated and paid based on the thesis unit equivalency guidelines and taking into account the coefficient approved by the Vice Chancellor of International Affairs.

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The thesis writing guidelines for international students at Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences comprise 16 sections and 6 notes were officially approved in October 2025.