

Guidelines for Theses at the Chair for Sports Analytics ([Website](#)):

The following document describes recommendations and guidelines for students who want to conduct a thesis at the Chair for Sports Analytics. The guidelines are applicable for both Bachelor's and Master's theses and for all students where a member of the Chair for Sports Analytics acts as a primary supervisor. Students who are supervised primarily by another chair are more than welcome to follow the guidelines, however, other regulations of the first supervisor should be followed primarily.

All of the following guidelines should be seen as recommendations and not as mandatory requirements, as they are not official parts of the "Prüfungsordnung":

- We provide an exhaustive list of materials like research topics, potential thesis projects and available datasets on our website. We recommend students to study this information when exploring potential topics for a thesis. Students interested in a thesis should fill out the following questionnaire: [Thesis-Questionnaire](#).
- We focus on research based on real-world sports data (e.g., tracking data, event data, play-by-play data, and match sheet data), preferably from professional competitions. We provide access to a wide range of such data sources (e.g., from football, handball, tennis, table tennis, and cricket) and are happy to support the acquisition of additional datasets for suitable thesis projects.
- Theses can be conducted in *all sport science bachelor and master studies* as well as in the bachelor and master programs *Mathematics and Computer Science*, where we are allowed to act as first examiner. For all other study programs of the Saarland Informatics Campus, we are only allowed to take the position of the second examiner. Students from these programs are still more than welcome to reach out and choose a topic from sports analytics; however, they need to find a first examiner from the examiner lists of their study program, follow the corresponding regulations and visit the corresponding bachelor/master seminar, while we can still provide the supervision and counseling of the thesis. As we have a close collaboration with multiple chairs, we are more than happy to assist reaching out to potential first examiners.
- Not only because our chair sits at the intersection between sports science, computer science and mathematics, *we encourage interdisciplinary topics* and theses with supervisors from different domains and different universities. Especially within the area of sports analytics, we encourage collaborative projects within the international network of sports analytics chairs.

- We recommend students to propose at least one relevant reference of their thesis for our *reading group* and moderate the discussion of that paper, preferably early in the process of the thesis as it can be a drastic support for scoping it. More information on the reading group can be found on our [website](#). Please send a paper and a preferred slot to sportsanalytics@uni-saarland.de
- We recommend students to present their proposal, interim results and/or results *in a colloquium or an alternative format* (e.g. our colloquium Fridays 2:45pm during the semester and 10am during the semester break in Saarbrücken or remote). Every student is guaranteed to get at least two slots for a presentation, which is also the recommended number. In case of collaborations with other chairs, supervisors or collaborative projects with peers, students are more than welcome to arrange collaborative slots for such presentations. Presentations are preferably held in English. Students are encouraged to attend the colloquium frequently to engage with other students also conducting their thesis with us. Please check with your first supervisor whether this counts as Bachelor/Master seminar credits.
- We offer and recommend *theses in the format of scientific papers*, i.e. more concise reports of your work (around 10-30 pages). Consequently, we encourage students to submit their thesis to appropriate scientific conferences or journals in close consultation with the supervisor.
- We recommend students to align on a *1-3 paged research proposal* of the thesis with all involved supervisors in the beginning of the project. Especially in the case of interdisciplinary work this helps to manage expectations across supervisors from different backgrounds. We highly prefer proposals in English language. They should contain all relevant meta-information (e.g. university, study, estimated start/end).
- We expect students to *submit all used material* such as source code, collected data within the submission of the thesis. All submitted materials should be mentioned in the printed thesis but can be provided in a digital way (i.e. PDFs via Mail, Code via Mail or a Git-Hub Link)
- *Embedded theses* that contribute to a bigger research project are encouraged, however, in every thesis the contribution of the student should be transparently listed in the beginning.
- The usage of any kind of supporting material (e.g. LLMs for writing) should be transparently mentioned in the thesis. Due to the massive support LLMs provide for theses, we recommend students to demonstrate their autonomous contribution during the process of the thesis proactively (e.g. via the above mentioned options).

- Theses can be written in German or English language. As a majority of the communication within our chair is in English, we recommend writing the theses in English, while of course considering whether theses are submitted in the students native language or not.
- Our *review and grading follow transparent and objective criteria* and students are more than welcome to ask for details after the thesis. The detailed criteria will be shared soon.
- While seminars, lectures and other teaching formats are evaluated by students, for thesis supervision, a crucial part for students, we often do not receive any feedback. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to fill out this form ([Supervision-Feedback](#)) after your thesis (preferably before grading to avoid biases).