

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in International Business
Student:	Thomas Wallenborn
Title of thesis:	Challenges and solutions in knowledge retention: The evidence from consulting industry in Mexico, Germany and Russia

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.

The choice of the subject is well-reasoned, the objective and tasks of the thesis are accurately defined and correspond to the problem under discussion.

The subject of the thesis is actual and urgent. It refers to the field of the international management.

Nowadays many specialists, both native and foreign, are attracted by this subject.

Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

The investigation is logical, that is clear from its accurate structure, and consistent solution of the set-up tasks. The theoretical and practical parts are mutually interactive.

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

In the analytical part of the thesis all the key-concepts, scientific and theoretical, are given, which later helps to analyse the empirical data. The spheres of the settled problems and perspectives for further investigations have been clearly marked out.

Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.

The qualitative methods for analysis have been used in the thesis. A questionnaire was compiled by the author on the basis of the data given in literature.

The data look like three interesting case-studies, highlighting the peculiarity of different countries (Mexico, Germany and Russia). The methods of research correspond to the methods used in international research.

Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.

The author has proved her ability for independent scientific thinking, her ability to choose present-day scientific problems, to pick out corresponding qualitative methods for analysis, to draw well-grounded conclusions.

Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.

The obtained results may be put into practice by both Russian and international knowledge-intensive companies.

Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

This thesis is a valuable scientific research that meets the majority of the requirements both as to the contents and to the design.

The Master thesis of Thomas Wallenborn meets the requirements for master thesis of Master in International Business program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date
22.09.2012

Scientific Advisor:
Professor

E. Zavyalova

