

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	MIB
Student:	Evgeniia Dovbakh
Title of thesis:	Role of University Context in Student Entrepreneurial Intentions Development: Cross-Country Study

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.

Master thesis of Evgeniia Dovbakh is devoted to study of the role of university context in students' entrepreneurial intentions development. Since student life is a stage where attitudes towards entrepreneurship are very likely to be formed through the exposure of students to new ideas and practices, the university environment plays an important role in providing the knowledge needed for entrepreneurship and may shape students' intentions to start a new business. University institutions are important for the development of entrepreneurial skills and competences, which in turn have been shown to be strongly correlated with entrepreneurial intentions and early-stage entrepreneurial activity. This study addresses the gap in previous literature on entrepreneurial intentions and examines a relationship between university entrepreneurial environment including different types of entrepreneurial capital, and students' entrepreneurial intentions across different cultures. Despite the growing body of literature in this topic, we still know very little about the role on contextual factors in entrepreneurial intentions formation. Thus the chosen topic is very important for current stage of entrepreneurship research field.

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.

Structure of master thesis is designed to achieve the goals and research questions stated. The master thesis is based on the deductive research approach, which starts with extensive literature review with hypotheses formulation and theoretical framework development and leads to the empirical study that tests the theoretical model. The master thesis consists of four parts, including introduction, conclusion and two chapters, followed by list of literature and appendixes. After introduction that includes justification of research topic, formulation of the research questions and research goals, the second part is dedicated to the literature review on the studied issue. In this theoretical chapter Evgeniia provides the definition of the concept of entrepreneurship, describes the major models of intentions, discusses the evolution and main themes of the research on entrepreneurial intentions, and analyzes the studies on the role of education in the development of entrepreneurial intentions. It is allowed her to develop comprehensive theoretical model and formulate the research hypotheses in the proper manner. The next chapter of the master thesis presents the methodology and the main findings of the empirical research. Evgeniia shows the deep understanding of the main research strategy and proves the chosen research philosophy and research design. Empirical analysis based on the huge dataset of 85,696 students from 26 countries. The conclusion section provides several important conclusions and summarizes of the aspects discussed in the theoretical and empirical parts of the master thesis.

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.

Evgeniia formulates research questions in the proper and accurate way. In order to address the research questions Evgeniia applies deductive approach with strong quantitative research methods including

impressive sample and statistical analysis. The justification of the chosen research design is presented in the proper way; the reliability of main findings is proven by the methodology implemented in accurate way.

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.

Data for empirical part of master thesis research was collected inside the international project Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey. Graduate School of Management is a national representative of this global project, thus Evgeniia could benefit the data access provided by her research advisor who is a leader of Russian national team. Evgeniia provides the description of the main steps in the research design and represents all measures and variables in accurate way. The appropriate and elaborated description of the research strategy proves the reliability and validity of main findings and justifies the main conclusions and findings. The main author's contribution is the development of theoretical model and the application of the data for testing this model. Also she was able to implement methods of statistical analysis in appropriate manner.

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 theoretical part includes the deep literature analysis and allows author to develop research model and research hypotheses based on the Theory of Planned Behavior and results of previous empirical studies. The literature review is presented in the good scientific manner and includes the description and explanation of the chosen literature for analysis. The methodological and empirical parts of the research include all necessary elements of the good scientific paper in business and management studies. Author demonstrates the ability to both analysis of the existing literature and synthesis main findings in order to provide her own ideas in this field.

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 results of the study have both theoretical and practical implications. From the theoretical perspective, this study extends the existing literature on the entrepreneurial intentions by providing new insights on the role of external environment in the formation of entrepreneurial intentions. As for practical implication, the results suggest that the universities' authorities should take into account the development of different types of entrepreneurial capital at the university level in order to enhance the entrepreneurial career choice among students.

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

Overall, layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, all tables and figures are given in the appropriate way.

The Master thesis of Evgeniia Dovbakh meets the requirements for master thesis of MIB program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

June 10, 2015.

Research advisor

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