

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in International Business
Student:	Evgenia Sleptsova
Title of thesis:	WORKING CAPITAL IN COLLABORATIVE SUPPLY CHAIN DURING CRISIS: THE CASE OF AHLERS COMPANY

<p>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.</p> <p>Financial logistics and supply chain finance topics, as well as the topic of working capital in supply chains is relatively new and one with growing interest. There are not many publications yet on this topic. Thus, Evgenia was a pioneer of certain kind to pick and work on this topic. Nevertheless, she was able to find the company, justify her topic and at the end of the day she was able to show quite interesting results and ideas. The aim (research goal) is well-explained in introduction and later described in research questions and tasks. The aim, tasks and topic are aligned.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The paper has six parts (chapters), including introduction and conclusion. All parts are logically structured. The structure is explained on page 12. The author starts with literature review and theoretical background. Later research design and case analysis sections appear. All tasks are met in the text.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The paper is quite deep analytically, both from academic and practical points of view. The strong part of the paper is discussion made by author and her personal understanding and interpretation of the results.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The author worked with one of the leading companies in 3PL business – Ahlers Logistics and was able to impress them with quality of work and the results.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Author has independent scientific thinking and good analytical skills that resulted in literature review and part with theoretical background.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Regardless the innovative topic and research orientation, the paper has quite good section on practical implications. In my personal view, this is a base for very good practical implication in future.</p>
<p>Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.</p> <p>The layout is done according to the norms and standards in Graduate School of Management of SPbU.</p>

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

16.06.2015

Associate Professor
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