

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

<b>Program:</b>	Master of of International Technology and Innovation Management
<b>Student:</b>	Derrick Katunzi
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	Towards Adoption of E-Learning Technologies at Lappeenranta University of Technology: Understanding Teacher's Adoption of Blackboard Learning System

<p><b>Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.</b> 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>The electronic learning has become crucial in higher education with increased usage of learning management systems. Nevertheless adoption of new technologies by users remains to be a complicated issue due to wide spectrum of underlying reasons. The study aims to understand how university teachers are influenced to use and adopt Blackboard system at Lappeenranta University of Technology. The title, research problem and research questions are clearly stated.</p>
<p><b>Structure and logic of the text flow.</b> Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.</p>
<p>The paper is well-balanced as it is comprised by introduction, two chapters that give the overview of research background and methodology (46 pages), three chapters that represent research findings, discussions and recommendations (40 pages), conclusion (4 pages).</p>
<p><b>Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.</b> 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>Derrick has managed to develop a holistic vision on factors influencing professors by means of moderating Blackboard course with instructor access. Analysis of both primary data obtained from LUT professors and lecturers and personnel Blackboard student/teacher experience results with clear practical recommendations for system developer companies, university faculty managers and university system administrators.</p>
<p><b>Quality of data gathering and description.</b> 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 quality of data should be improved as is it limited by 10 respondent's answers. Quantity and quality of literature review is enough to make weighed conclusions; the thesis presentation is good.</p>
<p><b>Scientific aspect of the thesis.</b> 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 pays much attention to modern research findings regarding theory of reasoned action, theory of planned behaviour, social cognitive theory and focuses mainly on unified theory of acceptance and use of technology. Theoretical framework developed by author makes evident the in-depth character of thesis theoretical part. The thesis is written in a good managerial language and can be classified as qualitative one.</p>
<p><b>Practical/applied nature of research.</b> 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>Thesis results can serve as a good basis for further improvement of Blackboard learning management system at Lappeenranta University of Technology.</p>
<p><b>Quality of thesis layout.</b> Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.</p>
<p>Thesis presentation is good.</p>

The master thesis by Derrick Katunzi meets the requirements for master thesis of International Technology and Innovation Management program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

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Research advisor:



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