

**MA Program in International Economics and Finance**  
**Master's Research Paper**  
**General Guidelines for Students**

## **Introduction**

The Master's Research Paper (MRP) is a scholarly investigation of a topic related to International Economics and Finance. The range of acceptable research topics is broad and includes theoretical and empirical topics. Theoretical papers may address topics from an advanced, analytic point of view. The usefulness of theory should be illustrated in the context of current economic events. Empirical papers may deal with issues from a more applied perspective. Relating the predictions of existing theories to the relevant empirical evidence, and analyzing the policy and practical implications of the empirical findings should be important components of the analysis.

Originality of research in the MRP will be identified either by the specific practical applications of theories in theoretical papers, or by the analysis of the new empirical findings in empirical papers. In both cases, a critical review of the literature in a field, or the exploration and synthesis of various perspectives on a topic is strongly recommended. The MRP may also be an applied case study exploring how an enterprise or institution might optimally address an issue. However, students who wish to undertake more original research for their MRP are free to do so, upon approval by the faculty supervisor. Where this entails research with human subjects, ethics review approval will be required.

The MRP should be no more than 40 double-spaced pages in length (excluding any appendices). It will be written under the guidance of a faculty supervisor, and evaluated by the supervisor and a second (faculty) reader.

## **Research Paper Format**

The MRP conform to normal scholarly standards with respect to referencing, bibliography, etc. The MRP must be submitted with a title page and an abstract. The student must submit an electronic copy (.pdf format) of their final version to their Graduate Program Administrator at [ief@ryerson.ca](mailto:ief@ryerson.ca).

## **Research Paper Supervisor**

Students will write their MRP under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Students are responsible for approaching/selecting a supervisor, who must be a member of the University's graduate faculty and must currently teach or have taught for the International Economics and Finance program. The student's faculty advisor, course instructors and program director may assist students in identifying potential supervisors. The supervisor is the primary academic mentor and assessor of the student's work. The supervisor also keeps track of the student's progress and makes sure that the MRP deadlines are met.

The MRP supervisor's responsibilities include:

- Approving the research proposal.
- Guiding the student's research/writing and requiring revisions as necessary.
- Declaring a completed draft is ready for approval.
- Determining, in consultation with the student, the second reader of the MRP.
- Make sure that the student delivers a hard copy of the MRP to the supervisor and the second reader.
- Advising the student of any revisions required for the MRP, and then informing the Graduate Program Director that all required or recommended corrections have been completed by the student.
- Send an email to [ief@ryerson.ca](mailto:ief@ryerson.ca) to confirm that the student has completed all the corrections required/recommended for their Master's Research Paper.

## **Second Reader**

The second reader represents an additional academic reviewer of the student's work. However the second reader is not a co-supervisor. Typically, the second reader will be asked to read a MRP only when the supervisor has deemed a completed draft satisfactory. In the unlikely event that the second reader deems the paper unsatisfactory, s(he) will consult with the supervisor about any required revisions.

## **Evaluation**

The MRP is graded Pass/Fail. No letter grades are assigned in this course. Assignment of the grade will be jointly determined by the supervisor and second reader, after reviewing the written MRP. Following the review, the supervisor may require the student to make revisions to the paper prior to its final approval.

A final grade for the MRP will not be assigned (recorded in a student's academic record) until the student has submitted the final corrected version of the paper, as approved by the supervisor, to their Graduate Program Administrator at [ief@ryerson.ca](mailto:ief@ryerson.ca).

## **MRP Submission Requirements**

Visit the Yeates School of Graduate Studies website for complete submission requirements and guidelines. MRP's will not be considered complete if they do not follow Yeates School of Graduate Studies submission guidelines. Submission guidelines can be found at the link below:

<http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/currentstudents/academicmatters/dissertations.html>

## **Plagiarism**

If in doubt, please visit the following site regarding plagiarism:

[http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/grad\\_students/](http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/grad_students/)