

MALS THESIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Dear MALS Student:

Your thesis will stand as the culmination of your MALS work; as such it should demonstrate sustained intellectual effort consistent with the goals of the MALS program. Please note that work submitted in a prior course **MAY NOT** constitute a significant portion of your thesis, and the Curriculum Committee **must** be consulted in any situation where prior course work is to be included in a thesis.

Your thesis will ultimately take on the form of:

- Pure Research,
- Applied Research, or
- Creative Writing (***please remember that a creative thesis requires the approval of the Chair of the Creative Writing concentration***)

And the form of your thesis will determine the format of your thesis proposal.

Thesis Proposal Process

- Students will have a general idea of their final thesis after having completed four courses.
- You will then form a committee of three faculty members to serve as your thesis readers;
 - Your principal, or first reader must be an individual who holds a regular Dartmouth faculty appointment, and
 - One of your readers must be a MALS faculty member.
- It is critical that you work closely with your first/principal reader for advice in formulating your proposal.
- Your proposal (*see thesis proposal form for further details on content and bibliography*) to the MALS office, for review by the Curriculum Committee, the term before your research commences. Submission deadlines are as follows:
 - April 15, for the summer term,
 - August 1, for the fall term,
 - October 15, for the winter term, and
 - February 1, for the spring term.
- Upon approval of your thesis proposal, students who elect to register for thesis research (MALS 137) **must** be “in residence” (*i.e. within commuting distance of the college*), have weekly meetings with your first reader and make significant progress towards completing your thesis. At the end of each term that you are enrolled in MALS 137 your principal/first reader will be responsible for assigning a grade of credit/no credit.

Formatting:

- Please refer to the thesis proposal form and include the numbered questions as headers to the five sections of your proposal.
- DO NOT staple your proposal!!!
- Late submissions may be withheld from committee review.

YOU are responsible for submitting YOUR proposal, with all required signatures, to the MALS office before the deadline!

Proposal Samples

Proposal samples are available in the MALS office for review. Samples may not be photocopied or removed from the office.

If you have any questions or comments, please notify a member of the office staff!