GUIDELINES ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING IN “INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS”

This document contains our guidelines for writing a seminar paper in “International Economics”. It is not exhaustive, but sums up general rules and points out the most important issues.

Length
The maximum length of your seminar paper is determined as follows:
(a) a cover page and a table of contents,
(b) an unrestricted number of pages for lists of tables, figures, abbreviations, and symbols, if any,
(c) a restricted number of pages with text, tables, charts and figures (the body of your seminar paper) which depend on the number of participating students, plus
(d) an unrestricted number of pages for references and a list of your sources for data, charts and figures, and so on.

All tables, charts and figures have to be included in the body (c) of your seminar paper. This part (c) of your seminar paper is restricted to 15 pages for single presenters, 28 pages for teams of two students, 39 pages for teams with three students, and 48 pages for teams with four students, respectively.

Style
Make sure the appearance of your seminar paper is similar to a scientific article. Use consistent style and formatting throughout your seminar paper.

Suggestion:
• use a common font like ’Arial’ (font size 11) or ’Times New Roman’ (font size: 12pt)
• alignment: justified
• text margin left: 3cm, right, upper, and lower margin each: 2cm
• line spacing: 1.5

Quoting
Clearly indicate when you express arguments of other authors. Quote within the text and not in footnotes.
• “… international trade…” (Feenstra 2004, p. 37)
• Feenstra (2004, p. 37) points out…
If you predominantly use one reference, clearly state this once in your Introduction and only cite prominent / catching or word-by-word quotes hereafter. You can use an abbreviation here, e.g. Copeland/Taylor (2003, p. 22) as C&T (p.22).

Use footnotes to refer to further research and / or issues related to your topic, but not central for the argument.

**Organization**

The seminar paper has to contain a comprehensive treatment of all relevant issues.

- **Cover**
- **Table of Contents**
  - Number headings in the Table of Contents and the Text identically.
- **Table of Figures**
  - List all Figures (if more than 3) with number and heading.
- **List of Tables**
  - List all Tables (if more than 3) with number and heading.
- **Content**
  - The introduction leads to and motivates the study and gives an overview of the main results, the body deals with the subject and the summary sums up the results in a critical manner.
  - Present your arguments in a logical order. Each step should build on the previous one.
  - Link headlines with the text! Paragraphs must fit to the corresponding headline.
  - The same applies to tables and charts! Refer to the tables/charts in the text and explain the content. They are useless without explanation!
  - Introduce abbreviations before mentioning them.
  - Number important equations and use these numbers for cross-reference.
  - For each analytical result clearly state the economic intuition / mechanism.
  - Orthography, grammar, and style are taken into account.
- **List all symbols and variables (if any) with their definitions, when making widespread use of them.**
- **References**
o List all publications mentioned in the body and all sources which you have used without mentioning them explicitly alphabetically.

o Use the following notation, so that every reference is clearly identifiable.

**Journal articles:**

**Working papers:**

**Monograph:**

**Book contribution:**

**Submission of your paper**
Please send your term paper as a PDF file to the e-mail address mentioned below until latest midnight of the due date, Monday, the 17th January 2011. Please consider that we will run your seminar paper through an automatic plagiarism proving tool.

**E-mail addresses**
- m.konopnicka@fs.de for both courses of Prof. Dr. Stephan M. Brandmüller
- ManuelRupprecht@gmx.de for the course of Dr. Manuel Rupprecht
- m.konopnicka@fs.de for both courses of Prof. Dr. Paul G. Schmidt
- r.pfoertner@fs.de for the course of Prof. Dr. Adalbert Winkler

For remaining questions, please do not hesitate to ask your lecturer.

---

Prof. Dr. Paul G. Schmidt
responsible module co-ordinator
Economics Department
Centre for Financial Economics
**Frankfurt School of Finance & Management**