

MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

1. The MA Major Research Paper is intended to represent a superior and more extensive level of work. Major Research Papers should be a significantly more demanding exercise than ordinary term papers and will be evaluated accordingly.
2. All MA Research Papers must be designated as such by the student.
3. One indication of the distinction between Major Research Papers and term papers is the decision of the Executive Committee (25 May 1976) that term papers would normally be approximately 25 pages whereas Major Research Papers could be as long as 50-60 pages long.
4. Major Research Papers may, with the approval of the supervisor concerned, be extensions and adaptations of term papers; however, it must be significantly distinct. One long paper cannot be accepted as both a course paper and a Major Research Paper.
5. Two readers are required for evaluating Major Research Papers: both readers must be appointed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the MRP supervisor must be appointed to Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought. The readers should submit written reports to the SPTH office on the appropriate forms. These forms can be picked up by the student from the Program office and included with the MRP sent to the readers. The student is responsible for informing the Program office as to the title and which two faculty members will be reading their MRP (in writing) at the same time as sending out the MRP and report to their committee.
6. One bound copy of the Major Research Paper must be delivered to the Program office, with the title of the MRP, the student's name and the readers names clearly identified on either the cover or the title page (or both).

The MA Oral Exam can be arranged only after the Director has received a copy of the MRP and the readers' reports.

Students should also note that exams may be scheduled only after all course requirements have been completed. Failure to provide the Program with a copy of the Major Research Paper may cause delays on requests for transcripts as the Registrar's office will not have the report needed to enter the MRP title on the transcript.

The MRP and Research Ethics

Students who are planning to actively research using human participants during their Major Research Paper must submit the FGS [Human Participants Research Protocol](#)

[Form](#) (TD2) and supporting documentation to the Program for review. The completed Protocol will be reviewed at least 2 months in advance by the Program Director to ensure that the student has adhered to the University policies on ethical conduct for research involving humans. Once passed by the Program, the Protocol is forwarded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval.

Extended Loan Library Privileges

Students who are working on their Major Research Paper or their Dissertation may request Extended Library Loan Privileges. The form is available in the SPTH Program office. This form - once signed by the director - must be given to the Library so they can add you to their system for extended loan privileges.