

TIK4040: Research and Design Seminar

Assessment of the thesis outline

Information for students

The outline should show good **research design**. The emphasis is on how the different elements that compose a master research project work together in the overall design of the thesis. During the TIK4040 lectures and seminars key aspects of research design (i.e. formulating research questions, moving from research question to case study, building an argument, conceptual choices, research ethics, referencing, etc) have been discussed. The master outline design gives the students the opportunity to create an overall **research design** where different research elements come together in a solid, reasonable and feasible way.

The master thesis outline requires active involvement of students as research designers. We will assess most positively thesis outlines that do not repeat contents, theories or concepts as learnt in regular lectures, but that show capacity to mobilize and use them in pursuing a certain research question.

Evaluation criteria:

- The master outline should follow a coherent and clear structure. The necessary contents are: www.sv.uio.no/studier/master/tik/skisse-til-masteroppgaven.html
- Capacity to present a selected topic, to reflect on different relevant aspects of that topic, to problematize it and to present it as a case study
- Formulate relevant and suitable research questions. They should be 'researchable' and balanced in scope and ambitions
- Elaborate a theoretical framework that is in line with the problematization of the empirical case and serves to formulate/address the research question. The student should show sufficient understanding of theories and concepts, and make good use of the resources in the pensum
- Methodological choices are sound and suitable regarding the methods section in itself and the outline as a whole
- Understanding of research ethics including formal NSD requirements, and capacity to integrate ethical choices with methodological choices reflexively and timely
- Technical aspects related to referencing and quoting are assessed
- The working plan is well thought through and feasible