

Guidelines Mémoire – International History

The Mémoire is the culmination of the two years master program. It must be an original research led by the candidate. The department encourages creativity as far as the choosing of the topic is concerned and rigorousness as far as the nature of the research is concerned.

It is possible for students to build on a seminar paper or on previous research conducted during her or his staying at the Graduate Institute. The nature of the paper can also be historiographical.

The use of primary sources is not compulsory, though students can use them in agreement with their supervisors.

The nature of primary sources varies, they can be written or oral, audio-visual or electronic, hence they are not specified in this document.

As to secondary sources, students are expected to conduct extensive research and thorough readings. They are also encouraged to read and research in the two languages of the Graduate Institute: French and English! The knowledge of further languages is an asset; students should discuss with their supervisors about primary and secondary sources in languages other than French or English.

The contents and articulation of the Mémoire vary. However, Mémoires should include a section or chapter on method and methodology; a critical review of literature; a bibliography. Reference system must be consistent. Each student discusses the articulation of the chapters of her or his Mémoire with her or his supervisor.

Students agree on the topic of their Mémoire with a supervisor. Students are free to choose the supervisor among the faculty of the International History department. They are free to contact an instructor as early as they wish, but no later than the end of the second semester. They should bear in mind that the potential supervisor has to agree to supervise the Mémoire. She or he might decline. Students must communicate the tentative title of their Mémoire by the end of the second semester.

Students can start researching as early as they have agreed on a topic with a faculty member; they do not need to wait for the beginning of the third or fourth semester. The Mémoire is a time-consuming, serious endeavour. Time-management is one of learning skills of this assignment. Clarity and intelligibility are assessed and contribute to the overall quality of the research.

The supervisor chooses the second reader of the Mémoire. She or he can be a colleague of the department or of another department of the Graduate Institute; in exceptional cases it can be a colleague of another university (the *Directeur des Etudes* must be informed and has to agree). The length of the Mémoire is of minimum 20,000 words and maximum 30,000 words notes included, bibliography and annexes excluded. This document does not specify the topic. Students and supervisors bilaterally discuss and agree on the theme, chronology, geographical area(s), unit(s) of analysis, comparative nature (if any) of the Mémoire.