

## Department of Anthropology and Sociology

### Guidelines for the Mémoire Préliminaire de Thèse (MPT)

The Mémoire Préliminaire de Thèse must demonstrate that the student is able to write a PhD within the period of time allotted by the programme. It is also a roadmap that sets a programme for the following years. ANSO PhD students are encouraged to submit MPT that are not longer than 20,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices).

The MPT should show that the student 1) has a very good knowledge of the literature which is relevant for her / his project; 2) can write well, in a structured manner, has clear vision and justification of his / her research questions, and can clearly spell out what is the proposed contribution to the existing literature; 3) has access to the necessary data and possesses the technical skills necessary to implementing the proposed research work.

The supervisor and the student agree on the length, contents and organization of the MPT. However the following items are always encompassed in the MPT:

- a review of the literature relevant for the topic
- the research questions and core concepts to be used
- the methods and methodology of the research
- a section describing the setting and justifying the case study (geographical, social, economic context...)
- research design, defining a methodological section describing how the research will be conducted
- a section on the primary sources the candidate will use and a critical reflection on them
- feasibility and ethical considerations of the research
- a bibliography

A calendar as well as a provisional interview grid are advisable.

Each student discussed the preparation and organisation of the MPT with the supervisor who has agreed to supervise her / his PhD research. In agreement with the student, the supervisor chooses the second reader, who, in principle, will act as *membre interne* in the PhD jury.

#### Evaluation criteria:

Originality and clarity of research questions  
Clarity of argument, framing of the issues  
Appropriate methodology  
Feasibility of the research

Theoretical framework  
Use of concepts  
Analytical qualities  
Critical thinking  
Overall originality

Use of literature  
Importance of bibliographical research

Structure of the text  
Written style and formatting of the paper  
Quality of the literature list

Ability to integrate comments  
Progress during the elaboration of thesis

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