

Checklist if you plan to apply for the practise track

Practise track Master theses can be completed within research projects conducted between the University and industry. These research projects must be financed externally (i.e. by the company or a funding agency). Students writing their Master thesis as part of these co-operations contribute to the projects and are employed by the university and funded using the external project means mentioned above.

If you are interested in writing a practical Master thesis, there are two options:

1. The Strategic Management Subject Area of the University of Vienna publishes open positions in relevant research projects and the topics of related Master theses on their website. If an open position is available, we will publish all relevant information on the application procedure. Please do not send unsolicited applications!
2. If you already have established contact to a company which is interested in funding such a research project: congratulations, this is a great first step! In this case, please follow the next steps carefully:
 - Contact the Strategic Management Subject Area of the University of Vienna, together with the interested company. Please include a brief abstract of the planned cooperation (max 1 page). The aim of the research project should be the development of an innovative solution to an existing business problem. You will hear within two to three weeks if the project idea seems feasible and can be pursued further within the frame of an applied research project.
 - Conditional on the topic being suitable for co-operation with practise, the Strategic Management Subject Area will negotiate the costs of the research project with the partnering firm/agency. Depending on the type project, one source of funding could be the so-called „FFG Innovationsscheck“, financing up to 10.000€ (<https://www.ffg.at/programme/innovationsscheck>). This funding scheme reduces the companies own capital expenditure to 20% (i.e. total costs of the project 12.500 €, consisting of 10.000 € FFG Innovationsscheck and 2.500 € from the company). For details on how to apply for the Innovationsscheck, check the website of the FFG: <https://www.ffg.at/content/einreichung-und-abwicklung-innovationsscheck-mit-selbstbehalt-ab-2018>. All necessary steps for the application at the FFG have to be carried out by the company. The Strategic Management Area can support applicants by cross-checking their documents and adding a proposed budget.
 - Depending on the scale of the project and the availability of funding, the Master student shall be employed by the University as a student assistant.

General information

- The results of your work as a Master student will become publicly available as a Master thesis, and you need to hand in a document that complies with the formal regulation for Master theses. Naturally, you may also write a second report directly for the co-operating firm.
- The co-operating firm will sign a contract with the University of Vienna specifying the details of the project and use of the funding.