

# **Principles and Requirements for Topic Selection and Opening Report of Master's Thesis For International Students of Xuzhou Medical University**

The topic selection serves as an essential part and points out the direction for scientific research and academic paper writing, and the opening report plays an important role to examine the rationality and feasibility of graduate students' scientific research work. The following principles and requirements should be strictly followed when selecting the thesis topics and writing the opening report.

## **1. Topic Selection**

(1) The development and practical application of the particular discipline should be taken into account, and the principle of being advanced, feasible and practical should be followed.

(2) The direction of topic selection should be consistent with the direction of scientific research of the student's tutor. The selected topics should be combined with the scientific research projects or the key links of life science research issued by relevant departments, as well as the research direction of disciplines and specialties.

(3) The content of the selected topic should be fully investigated, which requires not only sufficient theoretical foundation and literature basis, but also reliable experimental verification.

(4) The topics should be selected based on the basic material conditions of the funds, instruments, and experimental conditions in the particular discipline. Workload should be planned reasonably and requirements should be completed on time.

(5) On the premise of full communication between the tutor and the graduate student, topic selection should be conducted combining the graduate student's specialty and interest under the guidance of the tutor.

(6) Graduate students are encouraged to independently formulate research topics under the guidance of their tutors.

## **2. Organization of Opening Report**

Opening report should be arranged by the particular department, and be carried out by the respective degree authorization units. After settling the time of opening report, the department should arrange the degree authorization units to submit the **Application Form for Opening Report (Attachment 01)** to School of International Education for approval at least one week in advance.

### 3. Deadline for Opening Report

The opening paper should be completed by the end of the third term after the student's admission.

### 4. Requirements for Opening Report

Graduate students should write the opening report on the basis of topic selection, investigation, completion of relevant literature review and preliminary experiments, which should be presented and demonstrated in their respective disciplines and specialties. The opening report should be presided by the tutor, and participated by the invited experts ( $\geq 3$ ) with a sub-senior professional title (or above) in relevant disciplines. In order to improve the quality of the opening report, the graduate student should provide the written **Project Design for Master's Degree (Attachment 02)** and **Relevant Literature Review** to the participating experts.

### 5. Contents of Opening Report

The opening report should include:

(1) The source of the project (country, province, city, individual), the basis for selecting the topic, the research trends at home and abroad (important literatures are required to be listed), the approach of carrying out the project, the expected results and the final goal.

(2) The theoretical and practical value, advancement, and innovation of the project.

(3) The proposed methods (including statistical methods), means and technical routes, experimental materials, experimental conditions, budget, and other notes for the record.

(4) The preliminary experimental results, and the rationality and feasibility of the project.

(5) Difficulties or problems that may be encountered during the process of the research, and solutions and specific countermeasures for that.

(6) The paper workload.

Before the opening report, a graduate student should, under the guidance of the tutor, provide the **Personal Training Plan for Graduate Students**, **Relevant Literature Review**, **Project Design (Attachment 02)**, and **necessary previous records of scientific research**, which will be used for experts' check.

## 6. Review of Opening Report

The opening report should be subject to expert review. The participating experts should be more than 3 (2/3 or above should have the qualification as master's tutor). The experts should conduct on-the-spot reviews on the graduate students' **Opening Report Evaluation Form (Attachment 03)**, **Project Design Deliberation Form (Attachment 04)** attached with **the Project Design (Attachment 02)** and **Literature Review Deliberation Form (Attachment 05)** attached with **Relevant Literature Review**. After the discussion and unanimous approval by all the experts, the student will be deemed as passing the opening report.

## 7. Follow-up Work and Materials Filing

After the opening report, the degree authorization units should supervise and urge the qualified graduate students to fill in the **Opening Report Record (Attachment 06)** in time.

Within one week after the opening report, the departments should file all the materials relevant to opening report. The materials include **Opening Report Record (Attachment 06)**, **Opening Report Evaluation Forms (Attachment 03)** from 3 experts with a sub-senior professional (or above) title, **Project Design Deliberation Form (Attachment 04)** attached with **the Project Design (Attachment 02)** and **Literature Review Deliberation Form (Attachment 05)** attached with **Relevant Literature Review**. The departments should examine the relevant materials provided by the degree authorization units and submit all the materials as well as the examining results to the School of International Education.

After the graduate students pass the opening report, they can step into the research stage of the thesis. For those who have not passed the opening report, they can redo the opening report within 2 months.

If any student intends to alter the title after passing the opening report for a solid reason, he/she has two choices:

- 1) He/she should submit a report to explain why to alter the title, with the tutor's signing opinion and the department's approval, and then report this situation to the School of International Education. Within 2 months, the student should redo the opening report.
- 2) He/she should fill the Application Form of Altering Graduation Thesis Title with the tutor's signature and the signature of the personal in charge of the degree authorization unit.