

2020-2021

Thesis requirements

Master's Degree of Education in
Mentoring



New Generation Pedagogical Research Center
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, PHNOM PENH

THE MINI-THESIS

Number of credits: 6 Credits

As the NGPRC project is meant to promote significant changes in the Cambodian school system, it would be fruitful to use the Educational Research in English stream to improve the availability of research material for other teachers as well.

Cambodia lacks serious material in its native language. Therefore, in order to remain up-to-date, teachers have no choice but to rely on international research. Only a few of them can do this work, because of the low level of the population in any foreign language. The few who can read extensively in English or other languages have a very strong advantage to work in the private sector and seldom choose a career in education.

Small-scale research papers which are published in Khmer could contribute to solve this problem. The topic of mini-thesis can be whatever that the trainees are interested in, as long as it is researchable, ethical, and significant for specific schools or for the Cambodian education system as a whole. The thesis will be started from the beginning of the program so trainees have 10 months to do it. There is an Educational Research in English stream in this program that would help trainee to understand how to do educational research.

Each trainee will be assigned a supervisor who will guide him or her in the process of doing it. The trainees can also find external supervisors to help if possible.

What amount of work can we expect from the trainees?

The mini-thesis should be *at least 30 pages* in English or *35 pages in Khmer* (not including references and appendix). The format of the mini-thesis will be provided by the center. This requirement is less than other master's degrees due to the fact that they have an extended practicum by the end of the year. The purpose of the Master in Professional Ethics and

Mentoring isn't to train full-time researchers, but experts who can do small-scale research to answer the practical problems of their mentees or address the needs of their school.

Kinds of Research

The topics are chosen by the trainees with the approval of a supervisor and the instructors of NGPRC.

Primary research

The trainees are required to conduct primary research. It is a kind of research that may take various forms and follow various procedures, depending on your field or on the topic (experiments, survey, case study, etc.), but the authors need to collect and analyze raw data. The research paper will be based on the analysis and interpretation of this data. The choice of the topic must be reasonable in its ambitions, because of time scale and cost. The data collection can be conducted in one or several schools, that the trainee will select according to his/her research objectives, sample size and practicality.

Of course, the research protocol should be approved by the supervisor, as well as the staff of the school where the trainees intend to gather data, in order to avoid actions that may prove too disruptive for students' learning. Don't forget that the final goal is students' achievement through staff development.

Submission Schedule and Description

A research seminar will be run every Wednesday except the 4th of the month, which is reserved for faculty meetings. This means that the seminar will occur three times a month. The detailed agenda for the weekly meetings will be provided by each supervisor. Attendance is a must and trainees must bring something assigned by supervisor to discuss in the seminar.

The thesis will be collected based on the schedule below.

Stages	Submission schedule	Remarks
Revised concept note	15 th September 2020	Must be approved by the supervisor and the committee
Finding sources	30 th September 2020	Trainees work with their supervisor.
Critique of sources (Literature Review)	30 th November 2020	Trainees work with their supervisor.
Research Proposal (Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology)	30 th December 2020	Must be approved by the supervisor and the committee
Data collection	After the approval of proposal	Get administrative support from the center
Full draft of finding	30 th April 2021	Review and feedback
Final Defense	July 2021	Must be approved by the supervisor and the committee
Final Submission	August 2021	The committee checks the thesis again before publishing.
Publishing		

The paragraphs below will briefly describe each stage that you have to complete in a specific timeframe.

- ✓ **Concept note:** it will provide a general image on what kind of problem you are seeking to investigate. This is more than a proposed research topic. It includes a short background information of the topic, research problems, research objectives, and research questions. A clear view of these things will help you a lot to find the relevant sources for your literature review.

- *A Research Topic (the topic should be written as a specific problem and based on what you are interested in and also be researchable, ethical, attainable and feasible in our time frame)*
 - *Background (information related to what you are going to study from the broad context to specific points)*
 - *Research Objectives (please write down a few points on what you are going to research)*
 - *Research Questions (what are the main research questions that you are going to investigate)*
- ✓ **Finding sources:** you might have found some sources already when you've found your topic. This is more than that, you have to find many difference sources related to your study and use those for the literature review part. You can find the relevance sources from libraries, book, journal article, research report, news, etc. With those relevant sources, you have to write a list by using APA Style 6th Edition. By doing so, it would benefit you to find later on and use it as reference in appropriate way.
- ✓ **Literature review:** it is a process of searching through existing books, articles, manuscripts, documents or data related to your research problem in order to develop a theoretical and conceptual framework for a research study. Through this review you acquire an understanding of what is known or not known about the topic, detecting first the knowledge gaps that might become research problems, and then refining them to be able to define specific research questions. The process can clarify your ideas and help you to develop the research methodology and define the research design in an appropriate way.
- A Literature review will start by identifying what you need to know in order to document the other research paper:
- What research has already been done on this topic?
 - What are the sub-areas of the topic that need to be explored?
 - What other research (perhaps not directly on this topic) might be relevant to your investigation?
 - How do these sub-topics and other research overlap with the topic that you have in

mind?

- ✓ **Research Proposal:** it is a written document that clearly describes the introduction section, the literature review, and the methodology. You have to choose appropriate research design, sample of the study, sampling techniques, research tools, data analysis plan and tools, data collection plan, and scope and limitation of the study. Remember that your research questions can change if you find that it is necessary to change after reviewing literature. You have to defend this proposal in order to get some feedback and comments from the committee, which will help you to make everything clear and objective before gathering data.
- ✓ **Data Collection:** it will be based on what you have planned for gathering the information from your target group. Remember that you have to study full-time (Monday to Friday), so there might be difficult to allocate time to collect data. However, you have a short vacation after finishing the first semester and it might be good for you to collect data during this time.
- ✓ **Draft of report:** this draft will cover the findings and discussion of the findings. You'll get feedback from supervisor before the final thesis defense. Even though it is a draft, you have to be aware that it must be a good one.
- ✓ **Final Defense:** when a trainee has developed a thesis which is acceptable by the supervisor, a thesis committee responsible for overseeing the progress of the trainee's thesis is appointed. The committee is a team who give the score and ask for change if needed before the thesis is approved for publication.

Important Notes

There are some important notes that trainees have to realize

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

Plagiarism is a crime. No cheating/plagiarism is acceptable. Trainees need to observe this policy strictly. In order to avoid plagiarism, all of the references must be followed by the APA Style 6th Edition format.

Communication with supervisor

In the process of doing mini-thesis, communication with supervisor is very important. Trainees have to keep updating their work with supervisor, revise comment from supervisor, and follow the deadline assigned by the supervisor. For the proposal defense and final defense, there must be approval from your supervisor to do the defense. Without any approval, trainees are not allowed to do defense.