

Thesis Interest Worksheet

Department of Economics

rev. April 2021

This form is meant to encourage prospective thesis writers to start thinking about their theses sooner rather than later. If you plan to write a thesis next year, now is the time to get started. On the next page, please provide us with either:

1. The name of a professor who has agreed to be your thesis advisor next year.

OR

2. The names of three faculty with whom you have communicated via e-mail/virtual meeting/telephone about your thesis interests and potentially being your advisor.

Please email your completed form to the Economics Undergraduate Office by **Friday, May 28, 2021** (econupc@fas.harvard.edu).

This form is not meant to box you in or punish "late starters." We will not prevent you from writing a thesis if you do not return the form. The goal is strongly impress upon you that getting started early is an excellent first step toward writing a good thesis. The research process involves many stops and starts, even for experienced researchers. Sometimes a thesis topic initially sounds good but data are not available. Sometimes a topic is great but turns out to have already been published. If you start early, you have time to recover from any pitfalls. You also get the chance to think more deeply about your topic, get started on collecting data, and talk to more people about your research, which is a key part of the research process.

Thus, this form is strong signal and recommendation, rather than a binding requirement.

In the fall, you will have to submit an "official" thesis registration form (even if you've submitted this one), at which time you **must** have a thesis advisor. If you choose to change your advisor in the fall from the one who has signed this form, please be sure to inform them as this will free up an advising space for someone else.

Best of luck on your thesis adventure!

—The Ec Advising Team

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Student Name _____

House _____

Email _____

Potential Thesis Area(s) of Interest _____

Please complete one of the two sections below:

1. I have a thesis advisor:

Thesis Advisor (please print) _____

Advisor Affiliation (FAS, HBS, HKS, etc.) _____

2. I do not yet have a thesis advisor, but I have communicated with the following faculty about thesis topics and/or the possibility of being my advisor:

Faculty (print name): _____

Method of communication: e-mail / virtual meeting / telephone / other _____

Faculty (print name): _____

Method of communication: e-mail / virtual meeting / telephone / other _____

Faculty (print name): _____

Method of communication: e-mail / virtual meeting / telephone / other _____