

*Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski  
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration*

*MSc in Applied Econometrics and Economic Modelling*

***GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
WRITING THE APPLICATION  
PAPER***

---

*SEPTEMBER 2016*

# Contents

---

- Research question
- Brief review of literature
- Selection of analytical tools and specification of a model
- Data collection and processing
- Empirical analysis
- Reporting
- How to submit

# Research question

---

- ▶ Choose a field that is exciting for you
  - ▶ Usually writing about something you already know is an advantage
  - ▶ Any field and any topic could be chosen; however, try to set your question within socio-economic framework
- ▶ What do you know about this field?
  - ▶ Check availability of data and literature
  - ▶ Choose time and space to explore that field
- ▶ Formulate your research question
  - ▶ Doable, feasible, clear question so that you actually try to provide an answer to this question within the application paper

# Brief review of literature

---

- Has anyone ever tried to answer your question before?
  - NBER.org, IMF.org, WorldBank.org, OECD.org, ECB.org, EBRD.org ...
  - JSTOR.org or EBSCO, EMERALD ... (visit FEBA library)
  - SSRN.com, REPEC.org ...
  - Google
- What other researchers have done on that topic?
  - What are their models?
  - What data have they used?
  - What analytical tools they have applied?
  - What are their major findings?
  - What are their major conclusions regarding your question?

# Selection of analytical tools and specification of a model

---

- What analytical tools and models have been used for answering your question?
- What is the best approach for you?
  - Focus of your research
  - Availability of data
  - Characteristics of chosen time and space
  - Your knowledge, skills and experience so far
- Try to select analytical tools which you understand, know how to use and be able interpret findings with
  - No sophisticated statistical tools are required, although some applicants may choose to use such
  - Rely on your common sense, the data and what you can see using the initial facts
- Formulate a conceptual framework outlining determinants, relations and results explaining your question
  - This could be a more general model, a theoretical model, an empirical model

# Data collection and processing

---

- Data needed if you have chosen to do an empirical paper
- Data sources – google them!
  - It is quicker to use secondary data;
  - Primary data could also be used
  - International level:
    - Penn World Tables
    - Eurostat, World Bank, IMF, OECD, EBRD, ECB, UN ...
  - National level:
    - National statistical offices – [nsi.bg](http://nsi.bg) ...
    - Central banks – [bnb.bg](http://bnb.bg) ...
- Data processing
  - Attention needed when working with index numbers, real vs. nominal values, classifications, etc.
  - Generating new variables: growth rates, per capita values, aggregate variables, etc.

# Empirical analysis

---

- Preliminary data analysis
  - Look at the data first!
    - Graphs
    - Descriptive statistics
    - What else?
      - Correlations, statistical tests, regression modelling, and anything else within your powers
- What do you see? How do you interpret it?
- Tell the answer of your question based on your findings and results!

# Reporting

---

- ▶ Writing an application paper:
  - ▶ Follow the **KISS** rule (keep it simple and stupid)
  - ▶ Try to produce a paper of size between 3 and 23 standard pages
  - ▶ **No plagiarism!**
- ▶ Structure your paper in a way that it is clear:
  - ▶ What is your research question? Why did you choose that question?
  - ▶ Make a brief review of literature
  - ▶ Describe your data sources and your variables
  - ▶ State your hypothesis
  - ▶ Specify your model
  - ▶ Describe your findings/results
  - ▶ State your conclusions
  - ▶ List your references / bibliographical sources
  - ▶ Attach your datasets and organize additional empirical findings in appendixes



# How to submit

---

- By email to  
aeem **AT** feb.uni-sofia.bg
- Email subject: AEEM Application
- Deadline: 10 September 2016, 23:59
- File format for paper: PDF
- File format for datasets: xls(x), txt, csv, wf1, sav, dat