

International History Department Guidelines Mémoire Préliminaire de Thèse (MPT)

The MPT is an extremely important feature of the PhD program in International History.

Its successful defence means that the candidate is ready to pursue her or his research.

The format of the MPT varies. The supervisor and the candidate agree on the length, contents and objective of the MPT. The MPT is a written document; it is orally defended no later than the beginning of third semester (it can be defended before the third semester, if the supervisor acknowledges that the candidate is ready to defend it).

The oral defence lasts (maximum) 60 minutes; the candidate will orally present for no longer than 20 minutes, and for approximately 40 minutes she or he will answer to the questions of the supervisor and the second reader. Candidates receive two individual reports assessing their written document, one from the supervisor and another from the second reader. The candidate chooses the style and contents of her/his oral presentation, whether or not to address all or part of the criticisms expressed by the readers in their report.

As to the contents of the written document here follows a list of items that are generally encompassed in the MPT:

- the research question(s) and its *problématique*;
- a section on the method and methodology of the research;
- an exhaustive historiographical section;
- a section on the primary sources the candidate will use in her/his research and a critical reflection about them;
- a bibliography. The latter could be thematic and/or annotated;

In their written document, students are free to share a calendar or schedule, including the time they plan to spend in various archives, research centres, etc. and/or the time they envisage to spend writing their manuscript or applying for fundings.

The MPT can also consist of a draft of one or two chapters of the thesis. It can discuss in detail parts of the *problématique*. If the candidate has already led research in some archives or research centres, she or he could share her/his experience in the written document or during the oral exam.

Students are free to choose the supervisor among the faculty of the International History department. Each student discusses the articulation of the MPT with her or his supervisor. The supervisor chooses the second reader. The latter is a colleague of the department and, in principle, will act as "*membre interne*" of the thesis's jury. In cases of *co-direction*, the two co-supervisors assess the MPT; one of the two co-supervisors must be a member of the International History department and the second is either faculty of another Graduate Institute's department or of another academic institution.

There is no specific requirement as to the length of the MPT.

IH/November 2015