

## **PRACTICUM** DE HISTORIA ECONÓMICA

### **Guidelines for writing a paper for the International Business History course**

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### ***Introduction***

<b><i>Object</i></b>	Readings, Online Resources and Questions for Weekly Practices
<b><i>Course</i></b>	The International Business History Course,
<b><i>Degree</i></b>	International Business Degree, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Barcelona
<b><i>Instructor</i></b>	Paloma Fernández Pérez Department of Economic History and Institutions
<b><i>Subject</i></b>	6 credits Compulsory course of the Degree, for first-year students

The Guide provides concise and clear instructions about expected content and formal presentations of papers. Individual papers, but also collective papers written by teams of students. The instructions are organized in a few sections: about the key expectation and objectives to fulfill; Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) students always tend to ask by mail or in the classroom; and Answers about FAQs professors regularly provide to the frequent questions posed by students.

## *Guidelines for Writing a Paper*

1. Think about the topic and issues you must write about and formulate one big question that will guide the rest of your work, and will be answered in your paper.
2. Get good information from good sources.
3. Check other classmates papers to find possible models.
4. Organize your time and your team so there is enough time to check with professor before delivery (mistakes are penalized and you can avoid them).
5. If you work in a team, agree in which main sections you will organize your information and ideas, and divide/share responsibilities (if one fails, the penalty will be shared by the team so be responsible and request responsibility from the team)
6. Start writing.

### **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions):**

- A. What's a good question and how should I formulate it?
- B. What's good information?
- C. Where can I get good info and what are considered good sources?
- D. How should I organize my time and my team?
- E. Are there standard sections in an orthodox University paper?
- F. How can we organize work inside my team?
- G. How should I/we do the writing?

### **Answers to FAQ:**

- A. A good question is a challenge to go beyond given knowledge, something that will help you and others question existing knowledge, or obtain new knowledge. Usually a good question comes from thinking, from curiosity, from reading, from observation, or a combination of all these activities implicit in human intellectual activity since the start of Humanity. A good question must identify a

key problem, and key potential solutions, and be useful for others and not just for yourself. What are the origins of the current crisis? Is this pathway of economic growth in the world sustainable for future generations? are two important questions. For this course, here you have a few examples: What is the reason that Spanish multinationals have surpassed many US multinationals in the Latin American markets in the last decades? Why Catalan pharma multinationals are the leading world corporations in the pharma industry investing in the US in the last years? What factors explain the rise of corporations from BRIC economies in developed economies? What factors explain the world leadership of Spanish tourist corporations in the global tourist industry?

- B. Good information: Reliable institutions, corporations, websites, journals. Always use full citation to your sources, this provides the “Quality Control” label to your information. The less transparent your source, the less you provide full citation, the less reliable you and your information are. Some good sources: UNCTAD, United Nations, ICEX, WMF, America Economia, Financial Times, corporate websites, Expansion (in Spain, Mexico), Exame (Brazil), Fortune, Forbes, Boston Global Consulting, BBVA Studies Services and website. Limitations: Interest Groups behind the editors and owners of these sources. Also, consumers and citizens’ interests often neglected in these sources (check newspapers from different ideologies, interview Unions, Workers’ Associations, White Collar Workers)
- C. Where: Internet, Interviews, Journals, Books, Databases (Advice: your professor, the Library’s staff)
- D. How to organize your time and team: Draw a calendar, first check Delivery Date of ALL your papers not just from this course, and then check at least 3 dates before that date (to do the brainstorming session, the first drafts or problems discussions, and the final presentation). Always, always, always, check with your professor, as he will evaluate your work, so avoid problems and send mails, ask ask ask.

E. Standard sections? Yes.

— Cover Page:

- Title
- Author's names
- Name of program and Institution
- Year

— First Page:

- Abstract: 50 words
- Key Words: 3-5

— Pages 2-4:

- Introduction
- Section I
- Section 2
- Section 3
- Final Remarks (conclusions, limitations, agenda for future work)

— Page 5

- References:
  - From Internet
  - Books and Articles

— Page 6

- Annex or Appendix (optional, with images, tables, etc.)

F. Organize your Team.

G. Do the Writing (Translators, Correctors, Drafts shown to Professor)