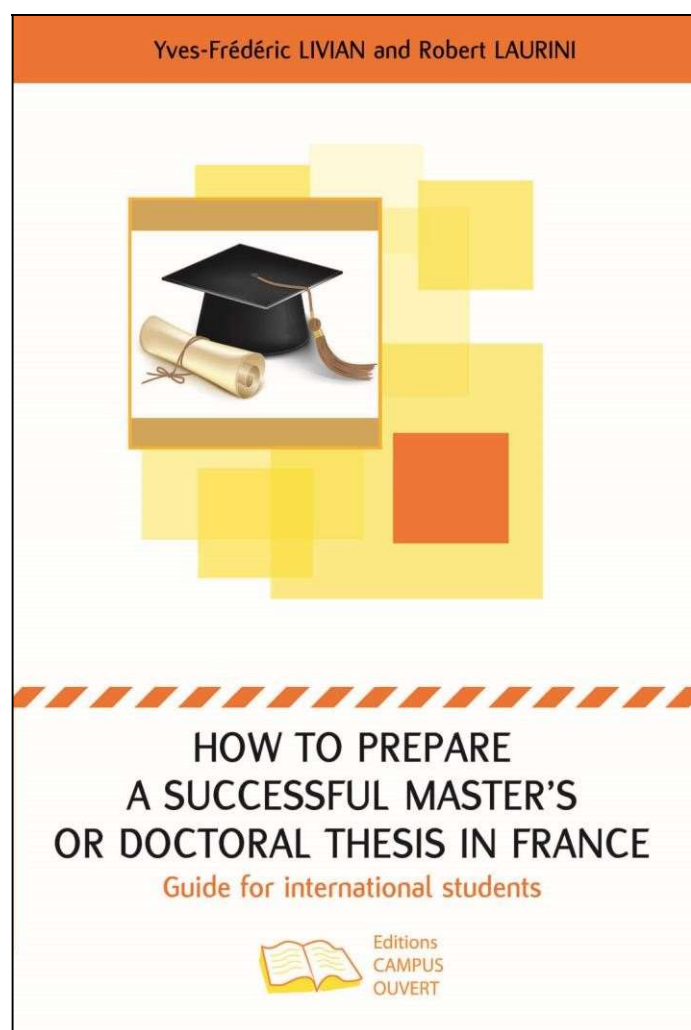


FORTHCOMING

HOW TO PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL THESIS
IN FRANCE
GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Yves-Frédéric LIVIAN and Robert LAURINI



In France, you are now permitted to write a Master or PhD dissertation in English.

For international students, preparing a thesis requires many new skills and adapting to the French academic context. This practical guide, based on long experience of teaching and accompanying foreign students at the CPU-Lyon – a non-for profit association devoted to helping 650 students per year of 70 nationalities – , aims to answer the main questions they ask: what exactly is expected when we talk about "Research"? According to what criteria are they going to be evaluated? How do you find relevant documents, choose a methodology, validate, write and, present a defense? What plan should I adopt? Which timetable should I follow to finish in time?

This guide is supplemented by self-study questions and useful annexes including a summary of the regulatory texts defining French masters and doctorates, specialized vocabulary, current abbreviations, and a bibliography to take you further.

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SUMMARY

Preamble

The twelve key questions

Chapter 1: How do you adapt to the French university environment?

Chapter 2: What is involved in doing research?

Chapter 3: What criteria will be used to evaluate a student's dissertation?

Chapter 4: What are the stages of a research project?

Chapter 5: How do you choose a methodology?

Chapter 6: Which plan should you choose?

Chapter 7: Which schedule should you follow?

Chapter 8: How do you write a satisfactory Master or a PhD dissertation?

Chapter 9: How do you present citations and references?

Chapter 10: What is a cotutelle PhD thesis?

Chapter 11: How does the defense work?

Chapter 12: How to improve your skills?

30 questions to help you review and deepen your understanding

Appendix

Appendix A: Recalling some basic rules concerning graduate studies and university research in the French system

Appendix B: Glossary of some words used in research (Greek or Latin roots)

Appendix C: Glossary of Epistemology and methodology

Appendix D: Abbreviations

References