

GUIDELINES FOR THESIS WRITING & SUBMISSION

1. The proposed study must be approved by the institutional ethics committee and scientific research committee.
2. The thesis should be restricted to the size of 80 pages (maximum). This includes the text, figures, references, annexures, and certificates etc. It should be printed on both sides of the paper; and every page has to be numbered. Do not leave any page blank. To achieve this, following points may be kept in view:
 - a. The thesis should be typed in 1.5 space using Times New Roman/Arial/ Garamond size 12 font, 1" margins should be left on all four sides. Major sections viz., Introduction, Review of Literature, Aim & Objectives, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, and Appendices should start from a new page. Study proforma (Case record form), informed consent form, and patient information sheet may be printed in single space.
 - b. Only contemporary and relevant literature may be reviewed. Restrict the introduction to 2 pages, Review of literature to 10-12 pages, and Discussion to 8-10 pages.
 - c. The techniques may not be described in detail unless any modification/innovations of the standard techniques are used and reference(s) may be given.
 - d. Illustrative material may be restricted. It should be printed on paper only. There is no need to paste photographs separately.
3. Since most of the difficulties faced by the residents relate to the work in clinical subject or clinically-oriented laboratory subjects, the following steps are suggested:
 - a. The number of cases should be such that adequate material, judged from the hospital attendance/records, will be available and the candidate will be able to collect case material within the period of data collection, i.e., around 6-12 months so that he/she is in a position to complete the work within the stipulated time.
 - b. The aim and objectives of the study should be well defined.
 - c. As far as possible, only clinical/laboratory data of investigations of patients or such other material easily accessible in the existing facilities should be used for the study.
 - d. Technical assistance, wherever necessary, may be provided by the department concerned. The resident of one specialty taking up some problem related to some other specialty should have some basic knowledge about the subject and he/she should be able to perform the investigations independently, wherever some specialized laboratory investigations are required a co-guide may be co-opted from

the concerned investigative department, the quantum of laboratory work to be carried out by the candidate should be decided by the guide & co-guide by mutual consultation.

4. The clinical residents are not ordinarily expected to undertake experimental work or clinical work involving new techniques, not hitherto perfected OR the use of chemicals or radioisotopes not readily available. They should; however, be free to enlarge the scope of their studies or undertake experimental work on their own initiative but all such studies should be feasible within the existing facilities.
5. The DNB residents should be able to freely use the surgical pathology/autopsy data if it is restricted to diagnosis only, if however, detailed historic data are required the resident will have to study the cases himself with the help of the guide/co-guide. The same will apply in case of clinical data.
6. Statistical methods used for analysis should be described specifically for each objective, and name of the statistical program used mentioned.

General Layout of a DNB Thesis:

Title- A good title should be brief, clear, and focus on the central theme of the topic; it should avoid abbreviations. The Title should effectively summarize the proposed research and should contain the PICO elements.

Introduction- It should be focused on the research question and should be directly relevant to the objectives of your study.

Review of Literature - The Review should include a description of the most relevant and recent studies published on the subject.

Aim and Objectives - The 'Aim' refers to what would be broadly achieved by this study or how this study would address a bigger question / issue.

The 'Objectives' of the research stem from the research question formulated and should at least include participants, intervention, evaluation, design.

Material and Methods- This section should include the following 10 elements: Study setting (area), Study duration; Study design (descriptive, case-control, cohort, diagnostic accuracy, experimental (randomized/non-randomized)); Study sample (inclusion/exclusion criteria, method of selection), Intervention, if any, Data collection, Outcome measures (primary and secondary), Sample size, Data management and Statistical analysis, and Ethical issues (Ethical clearance, Informed consent, trial registration).

Results- Results should be organized in readily identifiable sections having correct analysis of data and presented in appropriate charts, tables, graphs and diagram etc.

Discussion—It should start by summarizing the results for primary and secondary objectives in text form (without giving data). This should be followed by a comparison of your results on the outcome variables (both primary and secondary) with those of earlier research studies.

Summary and Conclusion- This should be a précis of the findings of the thesis, arranged in four paragraphs: (a) background and objectives; (b) methods; (c) results; and (d) conclusions. The conclusions should strictly pertain to the findings of the thesis and not outside its domain.

References- Relevant References should be cited in the text of the protocol (in superscripts).

Appendices- The tools used for data collection such as questionnaire, interview schedules, observation checklists, informed consent form (ICF), and participant information sheet (PIS) should be attached as appendices.

Thesis Submission to NBE

1. As per NBE norms, writing a thesis is essential for all DNB candidates towards partial fulfillment of eligibility for award of DNB degree.
2. DNB candidates are required to submit their thesis before the cut off date which shall be 30th June of same year for candidates appearing for their scheduled December final theory examination. Similarly candidates who shall be appearing in their scheduled June DNB final examination shall be required to submit their thesis by 31st of preceding December.
3. Candidates who fail to submit their thesis by the prescribed cutoff date shall NOT be allowed to appear in DNB final examination.
4. Fees for fresh thesis assessment is Rs. 3500/-. (Fee excluding gateway charges can be remitted through payment gateway provided using a credit or debit card issued by banks in India or through Internet banking.)
5. Thesis should be bound and the front cover page should be printed in the standard format. A bound thesis should be accompanied with:
 - a. Print out of online application form duly signed and stamped by all mentioned authorities
 - b. Synopsis of thesis
 - c. Copy of letter of registration with NBE.
 - d. Institutional Ethical Committee and Scientific Review Committee approval
 - e. Annexure Publication

6. A declaration of thesis work being bonafide in nature and done by the candidate himself/herself at the institute of DNB training need to be submitted bound with thesis. It must be signed by the candidate himself/herself, the thesis guide and head of the institution, failing which thesis shall not be considered.
