

Requirements for the thesis

Annex 6

For the final thesis, we would ask you to write a written examination of your own advisory case¹ and your reflection on it. The final thesis and our feedback are an element of the quality assurance of the CECRA training. In the following we describe the intention, the subject, and the requirements.

Intention

We regard your thesis as an exemplary self-assessment of you as an advisor. Writing your thesis and our feedback should be beneficial for your further development as an advisor, i.e. your learning. At the same time, it contains an assessment, if we can attest you the competences as an advisor required for the CECRA certificate on the basis of your thesis, that we require in order to obtain the CECRA certificate.

Task of the thesis

In order for your thesis to be evaluated, a comprehensible description of the case is required, in which considerations regarding the following points should be noted:

- What is the case about? Who was involved? How did you prepare? What were your hypotheses? What are the Hypotheses?
- How did you go about clarifying the assignment? How did you go about building the relationship?
- What did you do, when and how? And what happened next?
- How did you structure the conversation methodically?
- How did you structure the interaction with the participants? Were there any disruptions? How did you deal with them?
- What roles did you take on? And how did you perceive them?
- How did the case (e.g. the issue, procedure, participants) and, if applicable, your role change?
- Is there a result of the consultation and were further steps agreed upon? How satisfied were the consulted persons with the result of the consultation?

Parallel to this, your own reflection on this is important, i.e. explanations of questions such as:

- "How did I feel about it?" "What did I learn from it and from what?" "What conclusions do I draw from it?"
- "What emotions did I perceive in myself and the counselee in the course of the counseling interview? How did I deal with them?"
- "Where do I currently (still) have questions?"
- "What have I been doing since then the same, differently - and for what purpose?"

Describe the case history and your reflection on at least 4, max. 6 pages (A4, Arial 11 pt, single line spacing, without appendix). Appendices are only to be included if they serve the understanding of the methodological procedure.

When is a case suitable for the final thesis?

A consulting case is suitable as the subject of the final thesis if you were able to use consulting methodological competences in the case and if there was sufficient interaction with the participants so that you could describe

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and assess your own competences with regard to consulting methodology and design of interaction. A case in which the customer "only" asks you for expert information would be rather unsuitable for the final thesis.

A case is suitable, in which you advised

- a. A single person or
- b. A family or
- c. A group /farming collective / cooperation

and where there was sufficient interaction between you and the advised person(s) so that you could shape this interaction with regard to the concerns of those involved.

What do we evaluate?

The evaluators focus on advisory methods, which you describe in the consulting case you have selected and described, as well as the interactions you have observed and helped to shape. We are interested in how you used your consulting skills in this case and which changes/developments you noticed. Whether the clients considered the consulting to be successful or not is not relevant for our assessment of your thesis. Nor do we assess any technical content. We are interested in how you felt as a consultant, what you thought about, what you did and what effects this had on the client, the case and/or you.

It can be a case where you have experienced the consultation as unsatisfactory, from which you still want to learn something. It may just as well be a case that you experienced as particularly satisfying and that you would like to use for your competence development as a consultant.

Dates and submission point

A thesis can be submitted at any time. Please, allow between 4 and 12 weeks between submission of your thesis and receipt of feedback, depending on the availability of the reviewers.

Submit your thesis electronically to the regional recognition certification body.

What happens if a thesis does not meet the requirements?

You have the option of supplying missing elements or submitting a new thesis. The one-off post-processing of the thesis does not entail any costs for you.

Possibilities for appeals

You have the option of lodging an appeal against the evaluators' assessment. Your appeal will be finally dealt with by the IALB Executive Board within 8 months.

Dealing with confidentiality

The evaluators are bound by a confidential handling of the information you provide through your work. The formulations in the thesis should be made from the first-person perspective. The names and data of the persons involved must be made anonymous in such a way that no conclusions can be drawn.