MIAGE Major Research Paper (MRP)

Deadlines and Guidelines

MIAGE is a non-thesis program; however, before graduating, students are required to submit a 25 page research paper on an international issue of their choice. Ideally the paper should address a business, management, or legal topic explored from a socio-cultural or political economy context and drawing from different disciplines. You may build upon a paper you have written earlier in the program. The MIAGE Director will issue a pass-fail grade. A passing grade is required for graduation.

MRP Proposal
A paper proposal is due to the MIAGE Director no later than the 8th week of the your final semester. Proposals should be emailed to the Director; carbon copy the Program Manager.

Well thought through proposals include:

1) An overview statement or statement of purpose and scope. You can think of this as a “sales pitch” or vision for your paper. You should answer:
   - What the issue is
   - Why it is important
   - How you will frame it
   - What you will not include (that might be expected to be included)

   This purpose statement should not be more than a paragraph or two in length.

2) Approximately three solid research questions (or hypotheses if you prefer working with hypothesis). The research questions are commitments about the questions you will attempt to answer with your paper. Avoid questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” to avoid trivial questions (e.g., input-level questions).

3) A short description of your proposed methodology. This does not need to be elaborate. How will you try to answer your research questions? For example, will you conduct interviews, run a survey, or tap into large data bases?

4) An outline that is detailed enough to follow the flow and logic of your paper. For example in the “literature search” section (or “theory section”), be somewhat specific. Consider sub-headings that are aligned with your research questions. Avoid “literature review dumps.”

5) A sampling of references that you have found most helpful in getting started.

Unless you have a long list of references already, this proposal should not exceed 1.5 pages double spaced.

Final Draft of Major Research Paper
The final draft is due to the Director, carbon copying the Program Manager, no later than the last day of class for the semester you intend to graduate (before finals begin).
Final papers should be approximately 25 pages in length and include proper citation.

Students are encouraged to seek publication.

If your MRP involves humans in some way, and you want to publish the paper, you must first submit paperwork to the IRB for approval. The IRB process can be timely so please take this into account if you are working with humans in your study. Institutional Review Board

Students are also invited to put their creativity to work by developing and submitting proposals for applied projects that benefit an existing international nonprofit organization or business. These hands-on projects can be performed independently or in connection with an internship.

Contact the Program Manager or the Director with questions.