

[28mar19 - 30jan19 - 15nov18 - 03oct19]

# Fast track

## *Internship + final project*

### For whom

Students of the LT who want to earn the CFUs related to the internship (in the 3 and 6 CFU versions) and to the final project (“prova finale”, 3 CFU) may choose the **fast track option**.

### What

The student selects a Supervisor (a professor of the CdS) and selects or receives a scientific article. The student produces a textual document (**Extended or Standard Summary**) and a deck of slides (**Presentation Slides**); then s/he delivers a **Presentation** using the slides.

### How to

An **Extended Summary** is a pdf document that must not exceed 6 pages or 1500 words, plus references and possibly figures. It is written either in Italian or in English. The student earns 6 TAF “F” CFUs (tirocinio) for an Extended Summary.

A **Standard Summary** is a pdf document that must not exceed 4 pages or 1200 words, plus references and possibly figures. It must be written in English. The student earns 3 TAF “F” CFUs (tirocinio) + 3 TAF “F” CFUs (ulteriori competenze linguistiche) for a Standard Summary. The **Presentation Slides** must be at most 10.

The duration of the **Presentation** must not exceed 10 minutes. Presentation sessions are organized in predefined dates; talks within a session are fast-paced. The student earns 3 TAF “E” CFUs for the Presentation.

Language: Summary and Slides must be written in the same language, which must be used also during the presentation. I.e., students wanting to earn “foreign language” credits must use English in all their work; other students may freely select between Italian and English.

As soon as they begin their work, students should:

- choose between Extended and Standard summary, and inform the Tutor.

- fill and submit the standard form provided on the DIA Web site: <http://dia.units.it/it/node/9653>

The Summary and the Slides should be the outcome of the autonomous work of the student. However, the supervisor is available for periodical group meetings with students active in the Fast Track process. These meetings are devoted to the topics the students are dealing with, under a technical/scientific and methodological viewpoint. No preliminary evaluation is provided for the documents the student is preparing. Meetings last approximately one hour, and normally have a weekly cadence. Students who want to participate should inform the supervisor a few days in advance.

The Summary has to be delivered to the supervisor not later than 20 days before the talk session date chosen by the student. Exact deadlines are provided for each graduation session.

## Output

### Summary

The Summary has to provide a brief view about the topic of the proposed scholarly articles based on the critic reading of those articles and possibly on other related articles which the student collects autonomously.

In detail, the Summary has to give information about:

1. The unique general topic of the proposed articles, with a brief discussions on why it matters.
2. The main notions, concepts, and terms related to the topic, by means of a concise and possibly formal definition.
3. The research questions the article aims to answer. A research question is what the author is trying to find out about the topic.
4. The positions, i.e., the answer to the research questions, supported in the article.
5. The arguments for supporting those positions.
6. The weak points (limitations, missing information, and alike) of those arguments.
7. Optionally, item 6. can include not only the weak points outlined by the authors themselves, but also those detected by the comparative reading of other related articles which the student may collect autonomously.
8. Optionally, possible further research questions which arise from the articles and which are not answered in the considered articles.

For points 2–5, if differences stand among the proposed scholarly articles, they have to be highlighted.

## Presentation

The Presentation should deliver the same information as the Summary. It has to be adapted according to the following criteria:

- The target audience is to be considered broader than that of the Summary. Point 1 above is expected to receive more focus.
- The communication medium is different: text is to be adapted consequently; figures and diagrams usage is encouraged for easing the comprehension.
- The first slide of the Presentation should contain the formal citation of the paper: authors' names, title, detailed publication info (name of the journal/conference or title of the book, publisher, volume no., issue no., pages no., date, DOI).
- At the time of the Presentation, the student is required to provide the committee with one hardcopy of the article he/she was assigned.

## Assessment

The Summary will be evaluated by the supervisor; the Talk will be evaluated by a board of professors, including the supervisor, who are familiar with the proposed scholarly articles topic. Both evaluations will be based on the following criteria:

- Clarity
  - [summary] Is the summary understandable and easy to read?
  - [summary/talk] Is the chosen presentation order sound? Is the content over- or under- structured?
  - [summary/talk] Are the appropriate terms for relevant concepts used? Consistently?
  - [summary/talk] Is the summary and are the slides prepared according to the guidelines?
- Level of detail
  - [summary/talk] Is the information related to points 1–5 correctly provided?
- Added value
  - [summary/talk] Do the document/slides discuss other relevant scholarly articles autonomously collected by the student?
  - [summary/talk] Are possible further research questions identified?