

## The Use of English in Thesis Titles at TUM

(V07 – status as of 21 March 2014)

Please follow the guidelines below for the use of English in thesis titles. Submitted documents not complying with these guidelines will be changed/corrected by a representative of the Academic Programs Office or Examination Office to ensure the correct and consistent appearance of all graduation documents at TUM.

- TUM uses American English as a rule.
- The general rule for module titles and thesis titles is as follows:  
All words in the title are to be capitalized EXCEPT definite and indefinite articles (“the” and “a”/“an”), prepositions of all kind and coordinating conjunctions (“but”, “and”, “or”, “for”, “nor”).
- The first and last words of the title are *always* capitalized.
  - Example module title: “Introduction to Numerical Linear Algebra”
  - Example thesis title:  
“Absolute Instability in Curved Liquid Jets”  
*or*  
“The Life and Times of Arthur Meyers”  
*or*  
“Of Mice and Men”
- Pronouns of every kind appearing in titles are *always* capitalized, e.g. “his”, “their”, “which”, “that”, “somebody”, “some”, “who”, “these”, “whose”, “each other” etc.
- Here is a list of prepositions and conjunctions NOT capitalized in titles (NB: this list is not exhaustive):  
  
above, according to, across, after, against, ago, along, among, and, around, at, behind, before, below, beside, between, but, by, during, down, for, from... to, in, in front of, inside, into, near, next to, nor, of, off, on, onto, opposite, or, out of, outside, over, past, round, through, till/until, past, since, so, to, towards, under, up, up to, with, within
- Subordinating conjunctions (“if”, “as”, “because”, “that”, etc.) appearing in titles are capitalized, as is “Case” in the phrase “in Case of”.
- Descriptive supplementary information added after official module titles in parentheses should not be capitalized.
  - Example 1: Communicating Science (theory and practice)
  - Example 2: Philosophy of Science (advanced topics)