



UWTSD SoAC BA PATHWAYS

COMPUTER GAMES DEVELOPMENT

ANIMATION & VFX

DISSERTATION GUIDELINES



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. PROPOSAL / HYPOTHESIS	4
3. FORMATTING	6
3.1 GENERAL LAYOUT	6
3.2 TABLE OF IMAGES	7
3.3 CONTENTS PAGE	8
3.4 FORMATTING OF REPORT	9
3.5 USE OF IMAGES	10
3.6 PARAPHRASING	11
4. DISSERTATION ELEMENTS	12
4.1 DISSERTATION INTRODUCTION (EXAMPLE)	12
4.2 CHAPTERS AND SUB-HEADINGS	13
4.3 APPENDIX / APPENDICES	15
4.4 REFERENCES	16
4.5 BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
5. CONCLUSION	18



1. INTRODUCTION

This document is intended as a supplement of information to help you get started with your Independent Project in the Final Year of study.

Please note that **this is not a substitute for supervision** – once you are assigned a supervisor (Following the submission of an initial proposal) you are responsible for maintaining and attending meetings with your supervisor regularly throughout the academic year.



2. PROPOSAL / HYPOTHESIS

You will be required to deliver or present (depending on your discipline) a research and project proposal. This would typically be focused around a hypothesis.

The Hypothesis is the 'theme' of your dissertation. It's sometimes referred to as your Research Question - what your Independent Project will be focused on.

Ideally, we want to look at a topic that answers a question, such as the following examples*:

**Please note that this list contains only a few examples – there are plenty of topics you can explore as long as they are linked to the title of your degree!*



Hypothesis Examples:

- 1. Does the application of shape and colour theory make more effective character designs?**

(Example Practical = Designs of characters using applied theory vs. ones that do not)

- 2. Can long-term exposure to violent media desensitise an audience?**

*(Practical = possibly a rough game demo testing the theory - **this one would very likely have Ethical considerations to discuss with the University before approval**)*

- 3. What are key factors of what makes a 'good' singleplayer/multiplayer game experience?**

(Practical = Demo playable experience applying the written research findings)

- 4. Interactive games and the positive effects of neurodiversity engagement**

(Practical = A small demo of a short playable experience that takes neurodiverse traits into consideration and offers an experience that can help increase engagement or focus of a sample group of players, with supporting data/findings analysed)

The UWTSD Research Methods and Integrity Code of Practice can be found here:

<https://www.uwtسد.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-and-ethics>



3. FORMATTING

This section of the document is focused on formatting and structural elements of the Independent Project written content.

3.1 GENERAL LAYOUT

Example order for Dissertation structure*:

- Title Page
- Declaration
- Content Page
- Table of Images

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature Review
- Chapter 3: Case Studies
- Chapter 4: Methodology
- Chapter 5: Analysis
- Chapter 6: Evaluation
- Chapter 7: Summary/Conclusion

- References
- Bibliography
- Appendices (if applicable)

**Please note that this is somewhat flexible and depending on the nature of your research, this structure may need to be modified!*



3.2 TABLE OF IMAGES

This is just a list of all of the images (picture, graphs, tables, etc). It looks a bit like a Bibliography.

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1.1 [Table Name].....	33
Table 1.2 [Table Name].....	34
Table 2.1 [Table Name].....	37
Table 3.1 [Table Name].....	40
Table 3.2 [Table Name].....	41
Table 3.3 [Table Name].....	42
Figure 1.1 [Figure Name].....	17
Figure 1.2 [Figure Name].....	18
Figure 1.3 [Figure Name].....	19

You may not have any tables – if so, don't worry. As long as the figures are listed in order it meets the Undergraduate criteria.



3.3 CONTENTS PAGE

Contents pages can be populated in Word – here’s a tutorial on how this can be achieved:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/insert-a-table-of-contents-882e8564-0edb-435e-84b5-1d8552ccf0c0>

Example:

Contents	
1.0	Introduction 2
2.0	Project Requirements.....7
3.0	The History of Grammar.....12
4.0	Parts of Speech.....18
4.1	Nouns.....21
4.2	Verbs.....24
4.3	Adjectives.....27
4.4	Adverbs.....31
5.0	Sentences.....35
5.1	Complex Sentences.....39
5.2	Compound Sentences 45
6.0	Paragraphs 51
6.1	Descriptive 56
6.2	Expository 60
6.3	Narrative 65
6.4	Persuasive 71
7.0	Conclusion 76
8.0	Appendix 80
9.0	References 85

Figure 2: Example of a Contents Page



3.4 FORMATTING OF REPORT

Dissertation text should be spaced using 1.5 spacing. This can be done by accessing the 'Home' tab on Microsoft Word, looking for the 'Paragraph' section and accessing this tool (see Figure 1).

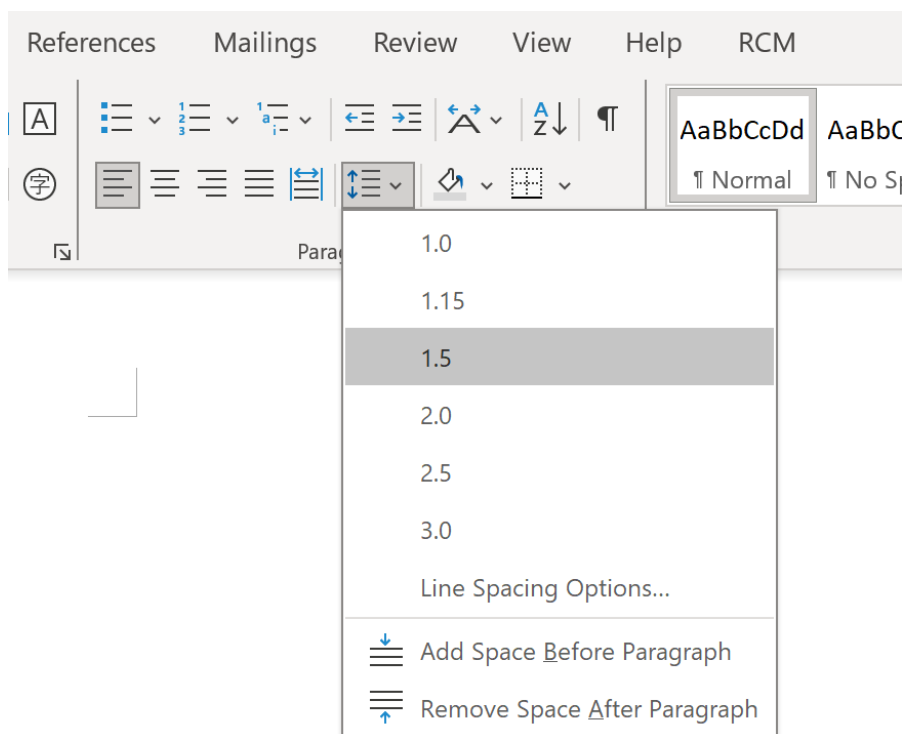


Figure 1: Paragraph / Text spacing

Aside from the formatting of the Dissertation's text, other elements need to be present as part of the finished document. Include a few other things like a **Declaration** and **Table of images** (see **chapter 2.1**) – these should be on the BA L6 Independent Project Moodle page (General Resources section).



3.5 USE OF IMAGES

Images featured throughout the work in each chapter is good to see, particularly in the **methodology** section where situations or experiences need to be explained (have captions included as well). This is useful for breaking up the text and providing visual research to your reader. {Put images on a separate line between paragraphs (not word wrap) and include a caption and number on each one. Captions should be in *italics* and also center aligned underneath a related image.



Figure 1 – like this



3.6 PARAPHRASING

Sometimes opportunities for **paraphrasing** are better than using a reference from other research texts directly (usually when there are a lot of quotes bunched together).

This guide for paraphrasing that may be useful to have a look at:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/current-students/support/helps/self-help-resources/academic-skills/how-paraphrase-effectively>

By paraphrasing you can still use your research sources but it may be easier to cite some of the facts you discover in your own words. You'd still use in-text numbering (for example this **[1]**) but you don't have to use direct quotes, which can sometimes make writing awkward and difficult to follow.



4. DISSERTATION ELEMENTS

This section of the document provides some examples of elements that make up a typical Dissertation. Please note that these are provided for guidance and **are not intended to be copied into your own document** as a template.

4.1 DISSERTATION INTRODUCTION (EXAMPLE)

Typically we will introduce the topic, the aims and objectives and provide a general overview before going into detail – for example:

***This dissertation will cover _____ and the significance of _____.
[add more text here as an intro].***

The aim of this project is to _____ (state your aims and objectives here).

Chapter 2 will look at _____ (provide a brief overview/summary of the Literature Review here) in order to provide useful context to the study being presented.

Chapter 3 will discuss _____ (List case studies – if applicable -and how these relate to the study.)

Chapter 4 will provide information on _____ (this is often the methodology used for a practical element of test – management, planning, gantt charts, resources needed, intended output, etc).

An analysis of the data obtained in this study will be the focus of Chapter 5, which will cover _____ (This is the ‘Results’ section where you discuss any information or data that is interesting and related to your project, or an evaluation of the finished product and if there were any challenges that needed to be addressed).

Finally, results of the practical project will be evaluated and summarised in Chapter 6. (this is your conclusions/findings – following this would be a Chapter 7 summary of the write-up, which would be the outro to your Dissertation. NOTE: No new information or revelations would be revealed in chapter 7 – that should be in chapter 6.



4.2 CHAPTERS AND SUB-HEADINGS

Chapters can contain sub-headings in order to break up different aspects of the chapter's theme. Related topics can be addressed in a more isolated fashion in a literature review by doing this. Please note the sub-headings can be called (or relate to) anything you want and can be organized like this:

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

(Example text) This chapter will cover the essential information related to this study, including an overview of _____ and how this has been influenced / affected by / had an impact on / etc.

2.1 Explanation of phenomena / intro to subject matter

Example text example text...

2.2 Background history

Example text example text...

2.3 Previous studies

Example text example text.

Other examples of sub-headings in chapters might include:

CHAPTER 3: Case Studies

Examples of related research that is linked to your study.

3.1 Case study 1

3.2 Case Study 2

3.3 Case study 3

3.4 summary of Case studies (similarities between them, how they relate to Lit Review and/or project)



CHAPTER 4 : Methodology

(Describe what you are planning to achieve and how you propose to do it in this chapter.)

4.1 Methodology – how you plan to create the practical (what tools to use, the project scope, objectives, etc)

4.2 Project Planning / Gantt Charts

4.3 Planned Objectives

CHAPTER 5: Project Development

Describe your project progress in this chapter.

5.1 Software used (example)

5.2 Project progress (any issues, problems, challenges faced)

Chapter 6: Evaluation

This can be a review of the processes used in the practical – what went well, what could be improved, what has been learned from the experienced.

Chapter 7: Summary

This is the conclusion – an overview of what you've covered in the report. This reads very similarly to the Intro as it just summarises what you've covered and what has been achieved in the project.

NO NEW INFO is included in this summary.



4.3 APPENDIX / APPENDICES

(Usually arranged as Appendix A, Appendix B, etc)

Appendices are all the information that you feel is interesting and related, but not essential, and didn't make the word count (or any research such as test data, questionnaires, etc. This is not always applicable to every project.

The Appendices are like the 'Extras' on a DVD. Nothing here is vital to understanding the main project but some people like to see behind the scenes.

NOTE: Declaration, Contents, Bibliography/References, picture captions, Appendices etc. do NOT count toward overall word count!



4.4 REFERENCES

References in text are good to see as this **shows evidence of research being applied**. Make sure the references such as [1], [2], [3], etc all align with the Reference section at the end of your Dissertation.



4.5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Bibliography is all sources of information you have consulted as part of your research, even if they don't get referenced in your work. This can be included as an additional section to References and will also be listed in IEEE format, only without numerical references. List this in Alphabetical order of the author's SURNAME.



5. CONCLUSION

This document attempts to tackle some of the common aspects of a Dissertation document to aid with the formatting and construction of an Undergraduate submission. Please note that this is not a comprehensive document that covers every element required and that you should always speak to your supervisor if in doubt.

Dissertations feel intimidating but they are just another academic report – you have already worked on several of these through your studies at University. Don't be put off by the word count or tasks that are set and if you are, consider breaking down these tasks into smaller, manageable components. If you meet regularly with your supervisor and produce work for the project each week you may find that this assignment is not as hard as you might have initially believed.

Good luck, and keep us in the loop if you are struggling – and always remember your tutors are here to help you!