

ECEG7003Q ECED7010 Dissertation

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Agenda

Dissertation: what is it?

Supervision: How it works

Summer Task

Proposal Form

Ethics Form

Literature Review or Data Collection

General Discussion of Topics

University Guidelines: Student Guide

University Regulations

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Student
2023 2024

Quality Academic Handbook Chapter 6

[Link to Chapter 6](#)



Dissertation Submission

Dissertations shall NOT normally be accepted for assessment unless they have undergone a process of tutorial supervision.



Keys to a Successful Dissertation

Project

Project management skills:
Good Planning

Ensure

Ensure you engage with
your supervisors !!!

Utilise

Utilize the material and
advice provided for you e.g.
Dissertation Handbooks,
lectures, Taught post
Graduate handbook

Extenuating Circumstances

Interruption of Studies

Adjustment to the Maximum Time Limit for Completing a Taught Award.

Please Check first with your Programme Directors / Managers:

- **Extenuating Circumstances** is now an Online Process see link in next box for information
- **Interruption of Studies SC02 Form**
- **Adjustment to the Maximum Time Limit for Completing a Taught Award SC03**

For further help please contact the Hwb team on

0300 131 3030

hwb@uwtsd.ac.uk

[Link to all Forms/Information for these issues](#)

Dissertation Support Entitlement

The total amount of supervision should not normally exceed 10 meetings to discuss the dissertation.

These meetings can either be virtual (such as Microsoft Teams/email/telephone) or in person.

A proportion of the total amount of dissertation supervision may take the form of group tutorials or workshops.

- **Undergraduate:**
 - 15 mins each supervision
- **Postgraduate:**
 - 30 mins each supervision

Getting the Best Out of Your Supervision Sessions!

Attend SupervisionR:

Agree dates with supervisor and stick to them, this can help with your planning...

Discuss Expectations with Your Supervisor:

how you both would like to work together... e.g. when would they like work submitted to review, what type of feedback do you require

Be Prepared:

Come with a clear agenda or set of questions you want to ask seek advice on... Ensure you send your work to your supervise with time to review

Send Your Work EARLY:

E-mailing your work at 9pm if you have a 9am appointment the following day may not result in your supervisor looking at your work in any depth, if at all...

Communicate:

Keep in touch, don't bury your head in the sand if you have any issues...

Structure: An Empirical Study

Abstract

Contents

Introduction

Literature review

Methodology/Methods

Findings (if collecting empirical data)

Discussion and Analysis

Conclusions / Recommendations



Structure: Literature Review

Postgraduates 4-5 Themes

Undergraduate 2-3 Themes

Abstract

Contents

Introduction

Literature review Themes

Discussion and Analysis

Conclusions / Recommendations



What is a Methodology?

*This **ONLY** Applies if you are **Collecting Data***

This is the section of your dissertation that explains how you carried out your research, where your data comes from, what sort of data gathering techniques you used.



This section is primarily for explaining why you chose to use those particular techniques to gather your data. Your rationale and research design.



You do not have to include any questionnaires, reviews, interviews, etc. that you used to conduct your research here these go in your appendices.

Methodology: Key Components



Research Overview:

Where you reiterate the topic of your research.



Research Design:

How you've set up your project, and what each piece of it aims to accomplish. e.g., Qualitative / quantitative; type of study (e.g., ethnographic study/ case study...)



Data Collection Methods:

What you used to collect the data (surveys, questionnaires, interviews, trials, etc.). Don't forget to include **Sample Size**.



Data Analysis:

How will you analyse the data?

Data Analysis

Your dissertation findings should be in
summary form
or analysed using an appropriate method

You do NOT
present all your data
RAW

Data Analysis

Qualitative
OR
Quantitative

- How you analyse your data is dependent on your research design and your methods of data collection

Data Analysis

Qualitative examples

- ***Thematic analysis***
 - Key themes form your combined data.
- **Narrative**
 - Uses the stories and experiences shared by people to answer the research questions.
- **Content Analysis**
 - It is used to analyse documented information in the form of texts, media, or even physical items.
- **Discourse Analysis**
 - focuses on analysing the social context in which the communication between the researcher and the respondent occurred.

Different Types of Analysis



Data Analysis Quantitative

Quantitative examples

- **Descriptive Statistics:**
 - Mean: Numerical average
 - Medium : Mid point
 - Mode: Most Common Value
- **Inferential Analysis:**
 - Correlation: Relationship between variables
 - Regression: shows or predicts relationship between two variables
 - Analysis of Variance: tests extent of how 2 groups differ

Literature Review Methodology

Many undertaking a literature Review Dissertation,
not undertaking empirical data collection:

- A literature review is a form of research methodology
- You can discuss this in your introduction to your dissertation and outline this as your methodology and your rationale
- See Video:

How to Write a Literature Review



What is a Literature Review?

Among other methods, literature reviews are essential for:

- (a) identifying what has been written on a subject or topic;
 - (b) determining the extent to which a specific research area reveals any interpretable trends or patterns;
 - (c) aggregating empirical findings related to a narrow research question to support evidence-based practice;
 - (d) generating new frameworks and theories;
 - (e) identifying topics or questions requiring more investigation
- (Paré, Trudel, Jaana, & Kitsiou, 2015).

Literature Review Components



Formulating the research question(s) and objective(s) Should have completed this stage



Searching the extant literature,



Screening for inclusion

Be critical
Assessing the quality of primary studies,



Extracting data, and analysing data



Producing themes to help structure your review

Postgraduate 4-5 sufficient for a 15,000 word lit review
Undergraduate 2-3 sufficient for 10,000 word lit review



Discussion of key themes conclusions and recommendations

Extra Information to Read Outside the Lecture

Literature Reviews can take TWO major forms.

1. The most prevalent one is the “literature review” or “background” section within a journal paper or a chapter in a graduate thesis. This section synthesizes the extant literature and usually identifies the gaps in knowledge that the empirical study addresses

(Sylvester, Tate, & Johnstone, 2013).

Extra Information to Read Outside the Lecture

Literature Reviews can take TWO major forms.

2. As a methodology in itself

- An original and valuable work of research in and of itself (Paré et al., 2015).
- Rather than providing a base for a researcher's own work, it creates a solid starting point for all members of the community interested in a particular area or topic (Mulrow, 1987).



Extra Information to Read Outside the Lecture

Although they are not easy to conduct, the commitment to complete a review as a methodology provides a tremendous service to one's academic community (Paré et al., 2015; Petticrew & Roberts, 2006).

References: Undergraduate & Postgraduate Texts

Link to Library: [Link to Library Page UWTSD](#)

Click on the live link in **PINK**

Undergraduate

Walliman, N. & Appleton, A.V. (2009)
[Your undergraduate dissertation in health and social care](#), London, Sage

Postgraduate

Furseth, I. & Everett, F.L. (2013)
[Doing your Master's dissertation from start to finish](#), London, Sage.

Paré G., Trudel M.-C., Jaana M., Kitsiou S. (2015) 'Synthesizing information systems knowledge: A typology of literature reviews'. *Information & Management*. 52(2):183–199.

Petticrew M., Roberts H. (2006) *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: A practical guide*. Malden, ma: Blackwell Publishing Co.

Sylvester A., Tate M., Johnstone D. (2013) 'Beyond synthesis: re-presenting heterogeneous research literature'. *Behaviour & Information Technology*. 32(12):1199–1215.