

MSc Dissertation layout

There is **no** universally accepted structure of a postgraduate research project but here is a guide to initiate your deliberations. Remember always consult with your **supervisor**, dissertation guidance notes, their preferences and subject rubrics. Guide the reader with linking sentences between sections i.e. signposting.

Cover page – title of research

Abstract

Declaration statements

Acknowledgements

Contents

List of Figures and Tables

List of abbreviations and or glossary

Chapter 1:

Introduction

- 1.1. Introduction/background
- 1.2. Justification / rationale / motivation for the research
- 1.3. Aim and objectives of research (or hypotheses)
- 1.4. Contribution of the research
- 1.5. Structure of dissertation
- 1.6. Conclusion

Chapter 2:

Literature Review

- 1.7. Introduction
 - 1.7.1. Objectives and focus of research
 - 1.7.2. How the literature review was conducted
 - 1.7.3. Structure of literature review
- 1.8. Review of literature under subheadings (logical structure)
- 1.9. Conclusion

Chapter 3:

3. Methodological review

- 3.1. Introduction - Research method and data collection tools used.
 - 3.1.1. Link method to aim and objectives of research.
 - 3.1.2. Ontology and epistemology
- 3.2. Research method – with justification against other methods not used
 - 3.2.1. Data collection methods and their suitability (some detail needed)
 - 3.2.2. Sampling – sample size and sampling method
 - 3.2.3. Access and consent

- 3.3. Ethical considerations
- 3.4. Pilot study
- 3.5. Research method limitations
- 3.6. Analysis of data – how the data is presented and analysed such as, descriptive and inferential statistics, thematic analysis, discourse analysis etc.
- 3.7. Conclusion

Chapter 4

- 4. **Results.** Some merge chapters 4/5 or have 2 thematic chapters
 - 4.1. Introduction
 - 4.2. Descriptive/inferential statistics – Quantitative results
 - 4.3. Qualitative results
 - 4.4. Conclusion (No discussion of results in this chapter – unless purely qualitative)

Chapter 5

- 5. **Discussion** – Often structured around objectives. Triangulates results, literature and analysis. Contextualises findings
 - 5.1. Introduction
 - 5.2. Themes e.g. Simulation and validation, research objectives
 - 5.3. Conclusion

Chapter 6

- 6. **Conclusion and recommendations**
 - 6.1. Introduction
 - 6.2. Main conclusions that you have drawn from your research.
 - 6.3. What do your findings add to the corpus of data/research findings already documented? Links to your contribution/motivation stipulated in chapter 1
 - 6.4. Recommendations
 - 6.4.1. Industrial/practice developments
 - 6.4.2. Future directions of research.
 - 6.5. Often structured around objectives (nothing new)
 - 6.6. Conclusion

References

All references referred to within the text and vice versa (no additions)

Appendices

Use these wisely

CH 2021