

FAQ

Guide for the research project

LCHS7004 MSc PHSCiP Dissertation Module

□ **When can I start with my research project?**

You can start your research (i.e., recruit participants, data collection, etc.) when your supervisor tells you so after having reviewed and approved your ethics form, and it is confirmed you have progressed to your dissertation stage, term3.

□ **What types of primary research can be used for my research project**

Following discussions with your supervisor you can use either quantitative research (i.e., questionnaire/survey) or qualitative research (i.e., observational or interview or focus groups). The type of primary research will be determined by your research topic under inquiry. The process of inquiry can either be; quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods research.

□ **How can it be ensured that the research follows ethical guidelines, including issues of generalisability?**

The supervisor will verify that your research follows ethical stipulations e.g., voluntary participation, no coercion, dignity, autonomy, consent and honest data collection, are respected.

Generalisation of findings regarding populations is more common in quantitative research and lacking in qualitative research. However, based on the small scale type of research conducted students will have to acknowledge the limitations of findings in terms of their generalisability.

□ **When I conduct a Systematic Literature Review, do I still need to complete an ethics form?**

Yes, you will need to complete your ethics form because you will need to explain how you will consider ethical stipulations relevant for systematic reviews e.g., use of protocol, use of critical appraisal tool (such as PRISMA), to prepare and writing of your systematic literature review. [Wager & Wiffen, 2011].

□ **How big should my sample size be?**

The aim of your research project is not to establish statistical significance but to explore your research topic. Therefore, for qualitative research the sample size one can use is **2 participants**. For quantitative research the sample size is **around 5 participants**. For a systematic literature review **10-12 peer reviewed articles** must be selected.

Use these numbers as a guidance and as a threshold. Make sure if you want to use larger samples first to discuss this with your supervisor to ensure feasibility to complete your data analysis and writing up.

□ **In which settings the research can be conducted?**

Based on the research topic chosen for your research, together with your supervisor you will identify and select the most appropriate setting in which you will be able to access your research participants. Research in formal health and social care settings will require approval beforehand (can take substantial time), while research in public spaces allows e.g., for participant observation and social community networks also provide ways to access research participants.

□ **What format should be used to write and submit my dissertation?**

You need to use Microsoft Word for the writing and submission of your dissertation. Students are encouraged to use the dissertation template provided on the module Moodle page.

□ **What are key deliverables to consider for my research during the 16 week period?**

Make sure to liaise with your supervisor and read the session slides from week 1 to note down the key deliverables in your diary. These include; receiving ethical approval (if not yet received), the formative student presentation, start of the research, and submission of the dissertation.

□ **When is the deadline for submitting the dissertation on Turnitin?**

The dissertation submission deadline is in week 16 and the exact date will be written and communicated via the assignment brief for the module LCHS7004.

□ **How many words per section should I use when writing my dissertation?**

Below you find a rough estimation and make sure to liaise with your supervisor regarding the writing of your chapters.

Dissertation elements	% of the total word count
CHAPTER 1: Introduction	10% (1,500 words)
CHAPTER 2: Literature Review	30% (4,500 words)
CHAPTER 3: Research Methodology	16% (2,500 words)
CHAPTER 4: Results and Discussion	33% (5,000)
CHAPTER 5: Conclusion and Recommendations	10% (1,500 words)
References	Excluded from word count