

Dissertation roles and Expectations

The dissertation provides an opportunity for you to produce a dissertation that has been instigated, developed and produced as a consequence of your own interests that they have developed throughout your undergraduate studies. The dissertation normally arises from individual interest or from a professional internship period, and will require you to undertake an independent research investigation into an area pertinent to your discipline. The dissertation engages you with reviewing a specific aspect your subject's literature, in research design, methodological engagement, primary data collection and analysis, and theoretical discussion.

The dissertation is primarily an independent learning process closely supported by dissertation coordinators and/or supervisors either in groups or 1 to 1. These tutors will be helping you choose dissertation topic, advise you on the assessment and guide you toward completion. But most importantly you should also see all the other students doing dissertations with you as a source for your own learning.

SUPPORT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As you commence on your dissertation you will be required to produce two documents, which are crucial to articulate your Dissertation plan and how you ensure the ethical protection of those involved:

- a short research proposal includes a background literature review, rationale, key questions/hypothesis, suggested methodology and research plan; [You may have already completed something like this as a rehearsal in previous modules on your programme. You can now use that, change it, start a new one, or if you haven't done one before get support for getting one developed.
- a completed ethical considerations form is an important part of your Dissertation and must be completed before you start any data collection. Your tutors on this module will support you in completing an Ethics Form.

The role of the tutors will be to:

- encourage students to explore a range of possible research areas and provide support in identifying an appropriate workplace related topic where relevant, leading to the selection of a definitive research area;
- provide support during the writing of a research proposal for the intended dissertation research, including clarification of research aims and objectives and the framing of appropriate research questions;
- provide support and guidance during literature searching and writing of the literature review; including the recommendation appropriate research sources and search methods;
- provide the student with opportunities for critical discussion and argument about the key academic debates relating to the chosen topic;
- provide guidance on appropriate primary research data collection and analysis methods and help the student to develop and enhance the necessary skills
- guide the structuring and presentation of the dissertation;

- generally support, encourage and motivate the student in their research.

The prime responsibility of the student (you) will be to:

- manage his/her project/dissertation and to maintain regular supervisory contacts with his/her supervisor.
- ensure that the responsibility for the work submitted is entirely his/hers.
- arrange with the supervisor meetings and attend them.
- take the initiative to initiate and keep contact with the supervisor to ensure progress of his/her work.
- keep records of supervisory meetings, dates and summary of work, work to be undertaken for the next meeting undertaken and time used.
- take the initiative to discuss any problem arising from his/her project/dissertation with his/her supervisor, such that they are resolved as early as possible.
- provide supervisors with timely, specific and clear requirements for meetings and any work offered for formative feedback (Note feedback on writing is included in the 12hr. time allocation for supervision, so students are advised to be SMART and use supervisors time for feedback wisely).
- abide by all regulations in force, in particular, regulations on plagiarism' and dissertation layout requirements.

