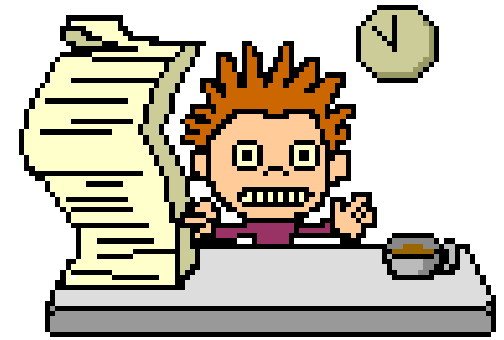
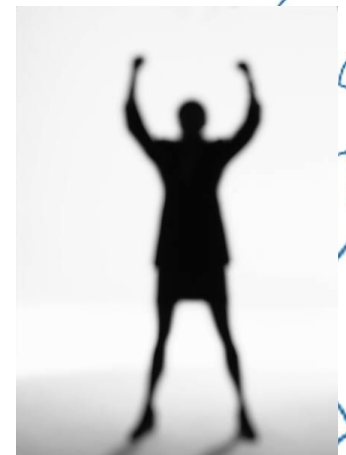
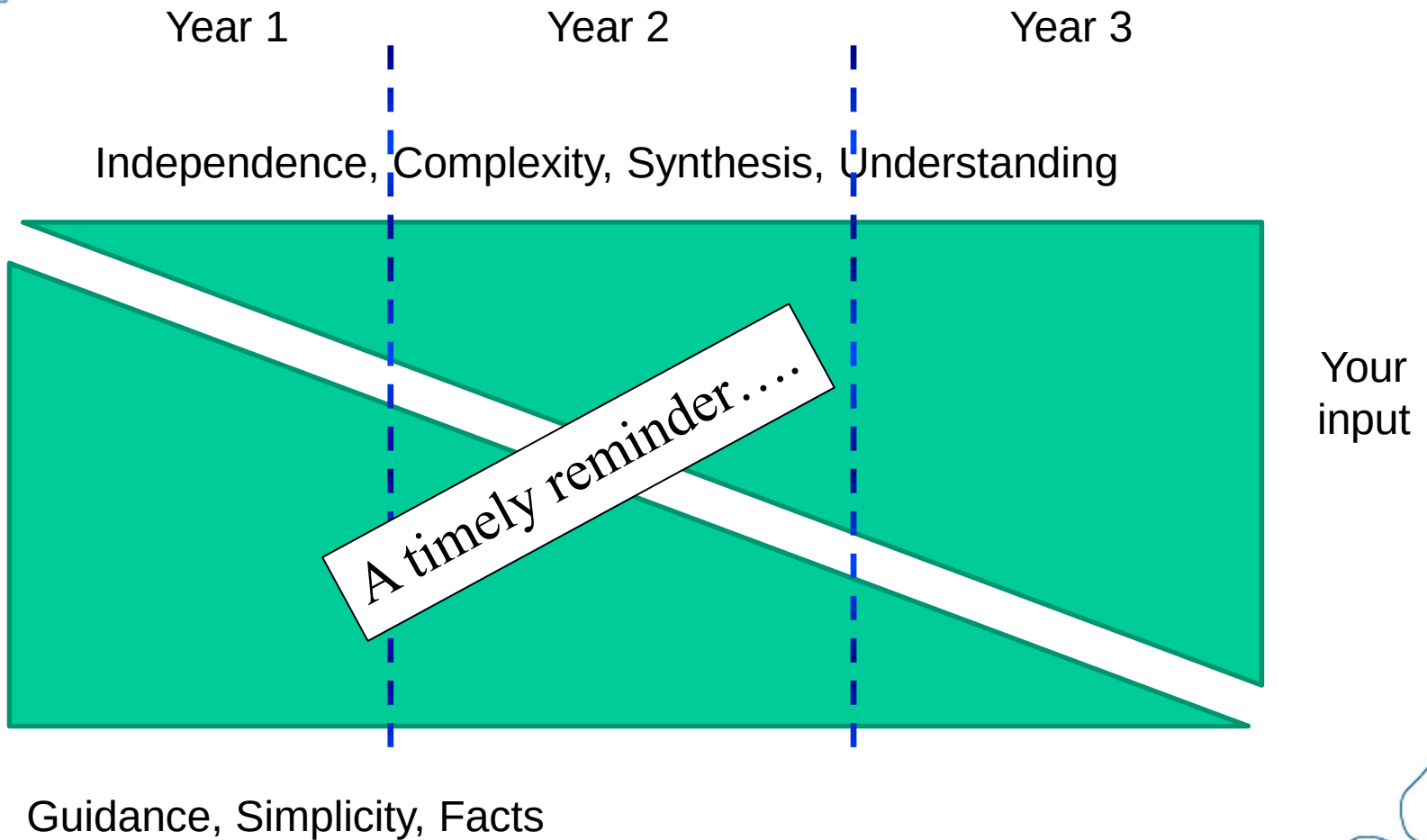




# Your Psychology Dissertation (M6X00917)

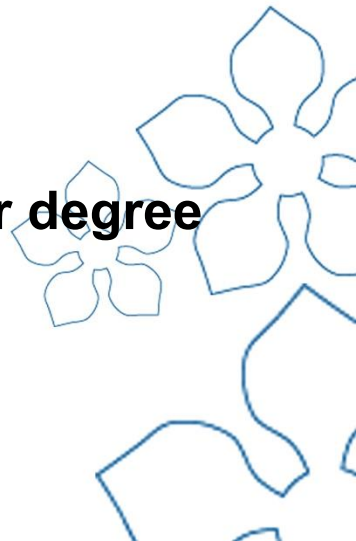




**You will earn your degree... we will help you to earn your degree**



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## Dissertation planning schedule - provisional dates.

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb             | Supervisor profile information made available                                                                                                             |
| w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb         | Approach potential supervisors for feedback                                                                                                               |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> April           | Proposals submitted in preparation for Academic Interview assessment                                                                                      |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April           | Academic Interview Assessment Day                                                                                                                         |
| Opportunity to re-work proposals | Deadline for any resubmitted Dissertation Proposals<br><i>(any failed Academic interviews will need to be re-sat within the examination resit period)</i> |
| By Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June   | Final confirmation of dissertation topics and provisional supervisors                                                                                     |

# The Dissertation

- A 40-credit independent research module
  - Assessment Component 1: Ten minute individual presentation (25%)
  - Assessment Component Two: Written Dissertation (75%)
    - 8,000 – 10,000 word thesis
    - Literature Review (20%)
    - Method Section (20%)
    - Results Section (20%)
    - Discussion (20%)
    - Presentation (10%) [APA conventions etc.]
    - Initiative/Project engagement (10%)



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# Learning Outcomes

- In order to pass the dissertation you must demonstrate the ability to:
  - 1. generate appropriate hypotheses and research questions;
  - 2. use evidence-based reasoning to explore relevant practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with a specific research question;
  - 3. carry out an empirical study involving primary data collection using appropriate tools;
  - 4. analyse data using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods; and
  - 5. present research findings appropriately.



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# Supervision

What we do....

- Provide guidance on appropriate methods, data collection tools and analyses
- Provide feedback on one draft of each chapter of dissertation if submitted in time at allocated supervision meeting



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# Supervision

What we do **not** do...

- Proof read work i.e. we do not correct grammar, spelling or referencing!
- Write your proposal/hypotheses for you
- Analyse your results
- Chase you for supervision



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# Reading

- Research methods textbooks
- Statistics textbooks
- Extensive use of academic journals
- Appropriate sources for key theories
- No Gross, Wikipedia or Cosmopolitan!!



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# Creating a proposal

- Please state your main research question(s) (specific hypotheses not needed at this stage but may be included)
  - At this stage it may just be things that interest you
  - Need to start to formulate it into a question
  - Need to start to formulate it into a PSYCHOLOGICAL question



# Creating a proposal

- Please state your main research question(s) (specific hypotheses not needed at this stage but may be included)
  - ‘I see this going on in society’
  - ‘Why do people carry out that behaviour in society?’
  - ‘What is the underlying psychological mechanism that explains why people carry out that behaviour in society?’



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- What empirical evidence supports your research question?
  - Without evidence you have nothing
    - No justification for your question
    - No knowledge of methodology
  - From 26<sup>th</sup> Feb onwards DO NOT approach a potential supervisor without knowing the empirical evidence
    1. They will probably send you away at that point and tell you to research it
    2. They probably won't want to work with you



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- Describe your participant group (including anticipated number of participants required) and any specific inclusion/exclusion criteria.
  - If a potentially small group need to consider how you will find them
    - High on narcissism
    - Problem gamblers
    - Non-white ethnicity
    - Welsh speakers
  - Probably not many of these in our student population
  - If planning to recruit from outside – forward planning
    - NHS/Prisons/Fire Service etc.
    - Rigorous ethics processes – take many weeks to get through
    - Their clients are not your research toys – you need to justify why they should take part in your research – high chance of rejection



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- Provide brief details of the anticipated design (e.g., between, within, mixed, regression, focus groups, interviews, experimental, questionnaires) and main procedure for your study
  - These are all things that you have been taught about – it is your job to plan, explain and justify them
  - Supervisors are not there to come up with ideas on how to answer your research question
    - They will advise but that advice comes with questions, and there has to be something there to work with in the first place



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- What measures are you planning to use for data collection and how will this data be used in the analysis in order to answer your research question?
  - Be specific
  - Read the literature
  - We are not asking you to reinvent the wheel – do what others have done before you
    - Read method and results sections, and appendices where provided – carefully, in detail



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- What are the main ethical issues that you will need to address in this study?
  - Do not just make these up off the top of your head
  - Read the BPS code of ethics
  - Read the university code of ethics
  - Think carefully as you are reading them whether specific points apply to your research
  - Ethics is worth thinking about at the beginning (is what you are wanting to do even ethically feasible?) and again at the end (with everything that I have now looked at and decided upon, are there ethical issues that I need to address?)



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# A realistic timeframe for all of this?

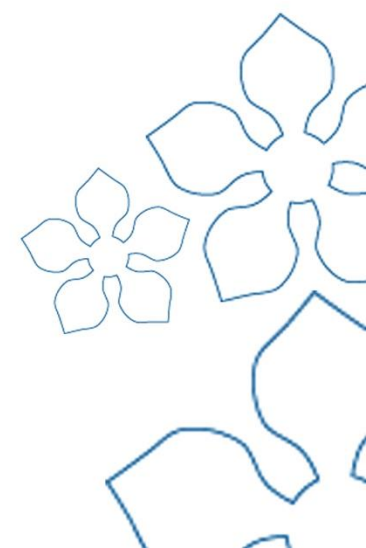


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- Remember: No lecture next week (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb) – BPS accreditation visit



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