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Session outline

Plan for the session

- Dissertation overview
- Dissertation qualities
- Dissertation learning outcomes
- Developing your research
- Supports and lines of communication
- Research support sessions
- Key dates and where to from here

Dissertation Overview

See M.Ed. Handbook for details

Due August 30th (Electronic submission via Turnitin on Blackboard)

- 20,000 words (10% tolerance)
- Including appendices, excluding references, preliminary pages
- 30 ECTS (out of a programme total of 90 ECTS)
- 1 ECTS = 20-25 hrs of student effort; 30 ECTS = 600-750 hrs of student work – equivalent to 20 x 40 hour weeks, which is a significant piece of work
- Distinction, Pass, Fail (see criteria in the Handbook)
- Results processed at the Court of Examiners in December 2021
- Advice on writing and structuring in Appendix 5 in the Handbook
Dissertation Overview
Qualities: what do I need to do? What abilities should the dissertation speak to (From the M.Ed. Handbook)

Qualities: what do I need to do?

– The candidate must show evidence that they are able to conduct investigation with rigour and discrimination

– The candidate must show that they appreciate the relationship of the subject to a wider field of knowledge (including scholarly literature)

– The dissertation should include a contribution to knowledge, but it is not necessary that it be worthy of publication

– The dissertation must be clear, concise, well written, and orderly. Its presentation, general arrangement, and style should be satisfactory

Dissertation Overview
Dissertation learning outcomes

– A critical awareness of contemporary issues and problems within the student’s chosen knowledge domain

– Expertise in original research which contributes to practice and/or knowledge

– Critical interpretation of, and application of, knowledge

– Expertise in empirical and/or non-empirical forms of research related to their chosen knowledge domain

– Critical reflection on professional, social, and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments

– Ability to take responsibility for the intellectual activities of individuals and/or groups

– Effective communication of their conclusions (and the rationale and processes underpinning these) to specialist and non-specialist audiences

– Ability to undertake self-directed or independent learning
Dissertation Overview

Developing your research

Types of research

- Desk-based: systematic review, meta analysis, policy review, historical review
- Field-based: questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, observations, interventions etc.
- NB to COVID-proof your project
- https://www.tcd.ie/itservices/assets/doc/working-remotely/research-data/recording-transcribing-qualitative-research-interviews-ms-teams.pdf

You have already started

- Description of the area of research interest
- Research proposal
- Not bound by those documents
- Develop and refine projects

Dissertation Overview

Supports and lines of communication

M.Ed. Handbook

- Dissertation supervisor (to be assigned in the coming weeks)
- Trinity Library(https://libguides.tcd.ie/working-from-home/resumption_of_services)
  - • Access to literature
  - • Library HITS, guides: https://www.tcd.ie/library/support/skills-training.php
  - • Subject librarian: Geraldine Fitzgerald (geraldine.fitzgerald@tcd.ie)
- Student Learning Development: https://student-learning.tcd.ie/
- Programme administrators: Keara & Agnes (master.education@tcd.ie)
- Strand leader, Dissertation coordinator, M.Ed. Coordinator (Prof. Conor McGuckin)
Research Support Sessions
Online groups sessions focused on aspects of the dissertation process
All sessions from 5-7pm on Blackboard module ET7208

First semester
- Induction
- Research Methods, Instruments
- The Literature Review
- Ethics & Ethical Approval

Second semester
- Mixed Methods Data Analysis
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Preparing the Dissertation for Submission

Dissertation Overview
Key dates and steps from here

- Support session dates on previous slide
- TBA: Rolling deadline for submission of applications for ethical approval
- 2 February: Progress report form due
- 30 August: Submission deadline
- 30 September: Submission deadline with Dean’s Grace
- Begin engaging with the literature in your area
- Make contact with your supervisor
- Refine project
- Apply for ethical approval: https://www.tcd.ie/Education/research/ethics/
Dissertation Overview
September 3rd 2021

Thank You