

LTC 01 – Dissertation marking Guidelines

These guidance notes have been produced in order that dissertation markers have at hand a set of prompts in order that they might best provide detailed and full feedback.

Input was sought from the supervisory team with regard to the content of this list.

It is acknowledged that there are many ways of writing a dissertations so this list should be regarded as list of potential areas to comment on rather than a prescribed list.

The list will sit in the comments box and staff will be expected to delete it after they have finished completing their feedback notes.

Introduction

- Purpose, issues and justification for the research defined
- Anticipated contribution to current practice and academic thinking (L6 current practice. L7 academic thinking and current practice)
- Scope and parameters set for the research
- Research objectives and questions (level appropriate)
- Overview of the structure of the dissertation

Literature review

- Uses a variety of suitable sources
- Evidence of analysis of past empirical studies, clear points arrived at (L6 more narrative/descriptive acceptable. L7 criticality)
- Formation and explanation for the conceptual framework making the link to the following chapter and research strategy (L7)

Methodology

- Brief coverage/paragraph on research philosophy and approach – (L6)
- Detailed justification of ontological and epistemological stances – (L7)
- Justification for the research strategy and thorough understanding of quantitative and qualitative approaches. (L6)
- Method should match methodology
- Sampling technique, size and limitations justified
- Chosen methods justified, limitations examined
- Pilot study completed as appropriate
- Validity and reliability, generalisability justified
- Data analysis explained
- Ethics considered

Data analysis

- Well presented with the use of visuals where appropriate
- Interpretation of findings not regurgitation of tables/diagrams
- Higher level statistical analysis used as appropriate (L7)

- Discussion of findings: Integration of both primary and secondary data methods where applicable, discussion as appropriate to create links between initial literature review findings and primary findings, revisit conceptual framework

Discussions and conclusions

- Original objectives / hypotheses readdressed (revisited)
- Practical implications and recommendations provided
- Theoretical implications explained (L7)
- Limitations of the research considered
- Recommended future research suggestions

Presentation

- Well-presented and coherent throughout, free from error
- Consistency within referencing
- Evidence of originality
- Work built logically
- Appendices: Use where relevant and add value as additional information. For example, sample questionnaire, interview script, some less important results (not shown in main report)

Use key phrases from the grading criteria in the marking to justify the comments and grade, with the inclusion of feedforward.