



Project Guidelines (JMC):

Every Learner in PGDJMC will have to submit a dissertation/project in any area of mass communication detailed in the curriculum under the guidance of a Supervisor. The main aim of the dissertation is to enable a student to have an in-depth knowledge of the subject of his/her choice. It should be a research-based effort and should endeavour to create new knowledge in any area of mass communication.

Aims of the Dissertation

The aims of the dissertation are to:

- put into practice theories and concepts learned during the programme;
- provide an opportunity to study a particular topic/issue in depth;
- show evidence of independent investigation;
- combine relevant theories and suggest alternatives;
- show evidence of ability to plan and manage a project within a stipulated time frame.

After completion of the dissertation students should be able to:

- define, design and deliver an academically rigorous piece of research;
- understand the relationships between the theoretical concepts taught in class and their application in specific situations;
- show evidence of a critical and holistic knowledge and have a deeper understanding of their chosen subject area;
- appreciate practical implications and constraints of the specialist subject;
- Understand the process and decisions to be made in managing a project within a time frame.

Dissertation Supervision

You will be supported through the dissertation by an academic supervisor. You will be advised by your co-ordinator (Study centre) of the process by which your programme allocates academic supervisors. The academic supervisor will ideally have background expertise in your area of study. However, this may not always be possible and you may be allocated a supervisor with more general subject knowledge. Regardless of the subject background of the supervisor, the academic supervisor will understand the research process. Where a 'non-expert' academic supervisor is appointed you will still, under the guidance of your academic supervisor, be able to consult with a subject expert. The extent of that subject expert's input will usually be limited to advice about the literature review.

Role of Academic Supervisor

The academic supervisor performs many functions and is there to facilitate and not to lead, hence the responsibility for the quality and content of a dissertation is entirely that of yourself, the student. The supervisor role includes the following:

- To advise the student whether or not the project appears to be feasible and the possible risks that may be involved, for example problems in trying to access information, potential poor response rates to surveys concerning commercially sensitive issues.
- To assist the student in tailoring the proposal to the time and other resource constraints.
- To assist the student at the outset in finding useful and relevant reading material and appropriate academic framework within which to place the topic.
- To advise on the choice of suitable methodological approach(es).
- To monitor progress and to advise on what is required to achieve a satisfactory dissertation.

Responsibilities of the Learner

- To maintain regular contact with the academic supervisor. It is the student's responsibility to inform their supervisor of progress and to lead the development of the dissertation. Difficulties must be communicated at the time they are encountered.
- To write the dissertation in a good standard of clear English using appropriate academic terms and citation and referencing conventions. It is not the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that this condition is met.
- To write the dissertation with guidance from the supervisor. The dissertation and research work must be your own. The dissertation is to reflect your subject understanding and research abilities, not that of your supervisor.

Writing the dissertation

The work on the dissertation should ideally start as early as Third Semester so that it can be submitted on time. A deadline for submission will be specified by the University and the student should submit it as per the schedule.

Word Count

Ideally the Master's degree dissertation should be within 8,000 to 12,000 words (not including appendices and references).

A student has to ensure that the dissertation includes the following:

Title Page

Abstract

The dissertation should contain an abstract of upto 350 words. The abstract should ideally include aims and objectives, methodology, results, conclusions and recommendations.

Contents Page

The contents page should spell out the chapter headings, appendices, references and pages on which they can be found.

Introduction

The dissertation should be divided into chapters and sections appropriate to the topic and type of dissertation chosen.

The introduction should provide details about the background of the study and the context in which the research took place. It should also provide a clear picture of aims and objectives that the dissertation is going to provide.

Literature Review

Literature review is an integral part of any research project and hence it's inclusion is a must in the dissertation. The literature review should present and analyse relevant literature published related to the research topic. The literature review should establish a link between the research that is being carried out its findings may be critically linked to the topic at hand. The literature review should justify the aims and objectives of the dissertation.

Research Methodology

It is that part of the dissertation where the researcher gets an opportunity to justify to the reader the process by which the research questions, which were derived by analysis of the relevant literature, were answered.

Chapterization

The student has to divide the entire dissertation into several chapters. Like Introduction, Literature review and chapters related to the topic.

Each Chapter has to be described in details.

Findings / Results / Data Analysis

The results of research carried out will be presented in this chapter.

Conclusions

The dissertation will be summed up in this part and will provide an explanation as to how the initial research plan has been executed. The conclusions help the readers to have a wider understanding of the issue at hand.

Bibliography:

Details of the referred materials to be given, which may be a book, research article, Internet Material, Thesis of others etc.