

Appendix 6: Sample dissertation layout

Faculty standard page

Personal and course details such as matriculation number

Given out by faculty

Completed by student

Title page

Dissertation title

Acknowledgements

Thanks to those who contributed to the study; personal, environmental or financial resources

Abstract

Briefly summarises the dissertation
Gives an overview of the research study including the conclusions

Contents

Lists chapter titles and page numbers
Lists additional information used: appendices, tables, glossary, illustrations, figures

Chapter 1: Introduction

The context
Aims and objectives
Research problem
Hypothesis
Research procedures: collect and analyse data
Methodology
Limitations of study
The study's contribution to current knowledge

10 per cent of total word limit

Chapter 2: Literature review

Reviews existing literature (research studies and other hard-copy and online resources) containing the main themes of your research
Summarises and critically evaluates what's previously been researched and reported on around these themes
Highlights gaps in literature

25 per cent of total word limit

Chapter 3: Methodology

Presents scope and sample size of your study
Describes, evaluates and justifies your choice of methodology, research tools and data analysis procedures used in your research

15–20 per cent of total word limit

Chapter 4: Data presentation

Presents the raw data only (not a discussion of it) – what was observed, gathered and discovered; patterns and trends
Contains tables, charts or similar graphical information with relevant headings

10–15 per cent of total word limit

Chapter 5: Data analysis, interpretation and discussion

Supports your research
Presents an analysis and interpretation of the findings
Highlights the relationship between the hypothesis and the patterns and trends that emerged in the findings
Discusses how these findings differ from those of other studies
Discusses the differences or similarities between other authors' views
States how the findings have changed the way you think about the topic
States how the findings can influence other studies

20 per cent of total word limit

Chapter 6: Summary and conclusion

Summarises main research findings
Presents conclusions
Suggests directions for further research
Lists recommendations

10 per cent of total word limit

References

Lists appendices numerically or alphabetically
Alphabetically lists sources used – bibliography and cited references