

## Skills for the future

You have developed a number of skills during your dissertation journey. Here are the ones we have mentioned in this workbook.

- The ability to ask questions, take notes and ask follow-up questions is not only useful for careers in consultancy, but also in any job where there is an information gap that you must fill in order to complete a task.
- Discussing ideas before reading helps you to focus on what you are really looking for in a text. This is a useful skill for your academic, personal and work life.
- Having a logical and timely decision-making process is crucial to all those working in the business environment. Focusing and scoping out your dissertation will help you practice your decision-making skills.
- Verbally sharing ideas and information about something you have read is a vital skill for business, as are listening, taking notes and asking questions.
- Scoping out proposals is a skill that is particularly useful if you have a project management job role, but the microskills of providing background and contextual details, assessing methodological possibilities and deciding on a timeline are useful for all jobs.
- Summarising your dissertation's argument, process and structure into a poster and 3-minute presentation is great practice for the future. It helps you practise the transferrable skills of prioritising information, summarising, explaining, creating and using visuals, and presenting to an audience. These skills will be useful for any career path.
- Researching, collating, reporting and synthesising what other people say and write is part of all jobs in the business world, so the skills you develop while doing your literature review will be very useful to you in the future.
- As a WBS student and soon-to-be alumnus, you are expected to hold very high standards in everything you do. Editing is one way to develop the meticulous attention to detail that will be required of you in the business world.
- The ability to meet deadlines is something that all people face in the workplace. Your assignments and dissertation at WBS give you the chance to practise meeting deadlines and coping with the processes involved if you cannot meet a deadline.
- It's very important to gain as much learning as possible from your studies at WBS and one way is through the feedback you receive from the academics who mark your assignments and dissertation. The feedback for your dissertation is particularly useful because it is usually the last feedback you get before returning to the world of work. Understanding and responding to feedback are vital skills for every worker. Some people feel very defensive towards negative feedback, but at WBS we try to make our feedback as constructive as possible so that our students can learn from it and move on with improvements in mind.
- Critical thinking and learning from past events are crucial to any job in the modern business world. The best way to face a new task is to look at past similar tasks and use benefits of hindsight to make your processes more efficient and more effective.

Watch four WBS PhD students talking about the transferrable skills they gained from their Masters dissertation process.

- Which of these skills do you think will be particularly important to you in the future?

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