

# Introduction

Dissertations at WBS are long pieces of written academic work that involve some form of research.

This dissertation workbook will help you prepare for, investigate and write up your dissertation. We have included useful videos, web links and readings to help you through your dissertation journey. Please watch this introductory talk from Associate Dean Keith Glaister who is Professor of International Business and oversees our Masters programmes.

**Note:** *Audio and video is only available in the online version of this content.*

## Why a dissertation?

As well as exploring a topic in a much greater depth and producing a longer piece of writing, a dissertation also gives you the opportunity to develop your academic skills and many of the transferrable skills that will be very useful to you in the work place.

Listen to these four WBS PhD students talking about their Masters dissertations.

- What did they think about the dissertation at the start of the process?
- How did their view change?

**Note:** *Audio and video is only available in the online version of this content.*

**Note:** *Audio and video is only available in the online version of this content.*

**Note:** *Audio and video is only available in the online version of this content.*

**Note:** *Audio and video is only available in the online version of this content.*

# Aims and objectives

## Dissertation Aims

1. Undertake an in-depth academic and practical analysis and interpretation of an area of your choice.
2. Apply academic and practical skills and concepts from the course in a systematic manner.
3. Analyse and interpret academic and practical information in new contexts.
4. Develop your research skills and critical understanding.

## Possible Dissertation Purposes

- Critically review existing knowledge in order to present a synthesis or new understanding of existing knowledge.
- Analyse a situation, problem or issue relevant to work or an organisation.
- Develop and evaluate an innovative approach to a specific policy or management question or problem.

## Dissertation Skills for Employability

*research   data analysis   interpretation   summarising   communication*  
*time management   critical thinking   focused reading*

The University of Warwick regulations say that:



*A dissertation submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a Postgraduate degree shall constitute an ordered, critical and reasoned exposition of knowledge in an approved field and shall afford evidence of knowledge of the relevant literature, and be submitted in accordance with the appropriate programme regulations.*

