

Meeting Minutes: Initial Conversation on Dissertation

Date: 23/06/2025

Participants:

- John (Academic Supervisor)
 - Sofiat (CSA Africa Founder)
 - Grace (MSc Data Science Student)
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1. Purpose of Meeting

- To align on the research direction and goals for Grace's MSc dissertation
 - Clarify CSA's objectives and ensure the project fits MSc Data Science requirements.
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2. Core CSA goals

- **Goal 1:** Use the dataset to provide **evidence of a digital/computing skills gap** among young Africans.
 - **Goal 2:** Identify **factors contributing to this gap**, focusing on both infrastructural and psychological barriers (motivation and mindset).
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3. Agreed Research Questions

- What evidence is there of a digital/computing skills gap in CSA's target population?
 - What factors (e.g., access, motivation, mindset, socio-demographics) are driving the gap?
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4. Key Approaches Discussed

- **Predictive modeling:** Predict the causal factors of skills gap and rank / predict main barrier type /
 - **Clustering:** Identify learner archetypes based on shared barriers (e.g., motivation vs. barrier).
 - **Qualitative analysis** of open-text responses for deeper insight into less tangible barriers.
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5. Dissertation Suitability

- Project must meet the MSc **DS standard**: sufficient technical depth and research orientation.
 - Analytical rigor and comprehensive research essential.
 - Research may lead to publication or inclusion in CSA's impact case study
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8. Next Steps

- John & Grace to meet on wednesday this week to finalize the technical roadmap.
- Grace to begin drafting technical plans involving clustering and predictive modeling.
- Regular check-ins scheduled every week.
- Sofiat is available for consultation.

End of Minutes