



UPDATED DISSERTATION PLAN — WEEK 2 (MON → FRI)

⌚ Weekly goal (unchanged)

By the end of this week, you will:

- have a **solid background research section** (Chapter 1.2 expanded)
 - introduce **proper academic references**
 - **clearly justify why baseline models are insufficient**
 - be ready to move into **advanced models next week**
 - still feel **calm and in control**
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MONDAY — Reset + very light start (IMPORTANT) DONE

Time: ~1–1.5 hours (max)

Technical

- ✗ No coding
- ✗ No notebooks

Writing / Reading

- Re-open your **current draft** (Chapter 1 only)
- Re-read **1.1 Introduction + 1.2 Background (current version)**
→ no editing yet
- Skim **1–2 example reports** (only Chapter 1)
 - Just notice:
 - tone

- paragraph length
 - how references are blended into text
- Decide and **lock the structure** (already agreed, just confirm):
 - 1.2.1 Fake News & Political Misinformation
 - 1.2.2 Machine Learning for Fake News Detection
 - 1.2.3 Limitations of Classical Approaches

 No writing pressure
 No citations yet

 **End-of-day feeling:**

“I’m back in the project without stress.”

TUESDAY — Background research (part 1) DONE

Time: ~2–3 hours

Writing / Research

Write: 1.2.1 Fake News & Political Misinformation

Focus on:

- What is fake news?
- Why political misinformation matters
- Societal / democratic impact

Add:

- **2–3 strong academic references**
 - surveys / well-known papers
- Keep it:
 - descriptive

- neutral
- non-technical

 No criticism

 No mention of your models

 **End-of-day feeling:**

"I've started real academic writing."

WEDNESDAY — Background research (part 2) **DONE**

Time: ~2–3 hours

Writing / Research

Write: 1.2.2 Machine Learning for Fake News Detection

Cover:

- Traditional ML approaches:
 - TF-IDF
 - classical classifiers
- Mention deep learning **briefly**:
 - CNNs / RNNs / Transformers (1 paragraph max)

Add:

- **2–3 references**
- Light comparison (no judgement yet)

 No implementation talk

 No "my project does X"

 **End-of-day feeling:**

“I can explain how others approached this problem.”



THURSDAY — Background research (part 3)

Time: ~2–3 hours

Writing / Research

Write: 1.2.3 Limitations of Classical Approaches

This is the **bridge section**.

Discuss:

- Surface-level features
- Lack of context & semantics
- Overlapping classes (very important)
- Why multi-class fake news is hard

Tie gently to:

- your baseline results (conceptually, no numbers)

This section **justifies Week 3**, nothing more.

End-of-day feeling:

“My project direction makes sense.”



FRIDAY — Consolidation + lock Week 2

Time: ~1.5–2 hours

Writing

- Re-read **all of Chapter 1**
- Improve flow:

- Introduction → Background → Motivation
- Remove repetition
- Light wording polish (still draft)

Light Methodology Check

- Revisit Chapter 2:
 - terminology consistency
 - maybe add **1 citation** if natural
- No new methods

Planning

- Commit changes to GitHub
- Prepare **Week 3 plan** (advanced models)

End-of-week feeling:

"I'm ready for advanced modelling."

Still NOT doing this week (locked)

- Transformers coding
- Hyperparameter tuning
- Explainability (LIME / SHAP)
- Final Results & Discussion
- Final wording

All postponed **on purpose**.

Final reassurance (important)

Missing the weekend **did not put you behind**.

This adjusted plan is:

- realistic
- assessor-aligned
- mentally sustainable

You're doing the **right work at the right time.**

