### Welcome & Guidelines

Land Economy Practical Research

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Welcome to the PGR Dissertation Workshops. These sessions are user-centred and focus on the real issues Mphil researchers face while writing the dissertation — frequent questions, practical problems, and how to diagnose and improve drafts using good (and not-so-good) examples from past work at diverse universities.



**?** Tip

#### How to use this site

- Start with the brief **overview** below.
- skimming the  $\bf Workshop$  at a  $\bf glance$  table helps you plan your attendance.
- Bring a short excerpt of your current writing; most sessions include live diagnosis and applied activities.

# 1 Workshops at a glance

#	Date (2025–26)	Focus	Notes
1	Tue 4 Nov	Research objective, questions, and problem framing	We'll look at strong vs weak research questions and
2	TBC	Inside the literature review	rationale. Scope, search, theming, turning reading into
3	TBC	Methods chapter setup	writing. Paradigms, designs, and process (e.g.,
4	TBC	Writing results & conclusions	surveys, cases, longitudinal). What belongs in results vs. discussion; referencing; what
5	TBC	Drop-in Q&A	goes to an appendix. Final polishing: intro, abstract, editorial control.

### 2 What you'll actually do

- Work through common stumbling blocks for dissertations (structure, argument, evidence, clarity).
- Review excerpts from previous dissertations together—what works, what doesn't, and why. :contentReferenceoaicite:8
- $\bullet$  Apply checklists/templates to your text so you leave with concrete next steps.

### 3 Workshop details & indicative content

#### 3.1 Workshop 1 — Research Objective & Questions (7 Nov)

- Research objective, research problem, rationale, and well-formed RQs.
- Sample dissertations: LE471, LE400, LE468 (2017–18). :contentReferenceoaicite:9

#### 3.2 Workshop 2 — Literature Review (30 Jan)

- From objective  $\rightarrow$  RQs; what a literature review **is** / **is not**.
- Scope, search, read, theme, and turn reading into writing.
- Dissertations: LE115, LE123, LE149, LE110 (2021). :contentReferenceoaicite:10

### 3.3 Workshop 3 — Methods Chapter (6 Feb)

- Paradigms (positivism, realism, interpretivism), logic (inductive/deductive), designs (experiments, surveys, case study, grounded theory, ethnography, action research), cross-sectional vs longitudinal; data collection and **method process**.
- Dissertations: LE382, LE379, LE334 (2018–19). :contentReferenceoaicite:11

#### 3.4 Workshop 4 — Results, Conclusions, Referencing (13 Feb)

- What belongs in results vs conclusions; **appropriate referencing**; when to move a table to the **appendix**.
- Dissertations: LE221, LE201, LE296 (2021–22).

#### 3.5 Workshop 5 — Drop-in & Polishing (20 Feb)

- Q&A and final shaping: Introduction, Abstract, Editorial Control.
- Dissertations: LE702, LE682, LE635, LE697 (2023).

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## 4 Logistics: booking & venue

• Bring a laptop, your most recent outline or 1–2 pages of writing, and any data/notes you want feedback on.

### 5 Readings & helpful links

A few useful pieces from the plan (plus DRDS resources):

- Ivanochko, Writing Research Questions. Cambridge University Press (chapter). :contentReferenceoaicite:15
- Brown (2007), supervising international masters students, Journal of Further & Higher Education. :contentReferenceoaicite:16
- Pemberton (2012), a "how-to" guide for the thesis/dissertation process. :contentReferenceoaicite:17
- Golding, Sharmini & Lazarovitch (2014), what examiners do / what students should know. :contentReferenceoaicite:18
- Golding (2017), advice for writing a thesis (based on what examiners do). :contentReferenceoaicite:19
- Royal Literary Fund: What is a literature review? :contentReferenceoaicite:20
   You can cite these formally using the project's references.bib and apa.csl on any page.

# 6 Quick checklist (bring this each time)

A short excerpt (or outline) of your dissertation chapter-in-progress
One concrete question you want answered
Any figures/tables you're unsure about (move to appendix?)
Your planned next step after the workshop

## 7 Contact & support

If you have accessibility needs or want tailored feedback (e.g., methods or data setup), email me ahead of time so I can prepare materials aligned to your topic.

**Booking:** Moodle/DRDS  $\rightarrow$  "PGR Dissertation Workshops"  $\rightarrow$  choose your slot. :contentReferenceoaicite:21