

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 **Workshop at a glance** table helps you plan your attendance.
 - Bring a short excerpt of your current writing; most sessions include **live diagnosis** and applied activities.
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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 rationale.
2	TBC	Inside the literature review	Scope, search, theming, turning reading into writing.
3	TBC	Methods chapter setup	Paradigms, designs, and process (e.g., surveys, cases, longitudinal).
4	TBC	Writing results & conclusions	What belongs in results vs. discussion; referencing; what goes to an appendix.
5	TBC	Drop-in Q&A	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
 - Apply checklists/templates to *your* text so you leave with concrete next steps.
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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 → 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.
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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
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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 → “PGR Dissertation Workshops” → choose your slot.
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