

Dissertation: Quick Guidelines

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This document contains some broad guidelines and advise.

1 Meetings

- Meetings can always be booked on the [bookings page](#). The booking link and OH schedule is also available on my website's [teaching page](#).
- My main request is that please book in-person meetings at least the day before the meeting. The webpage allows you to book meetings up to 1 hour before the meeting start.
- **Always use your university email address when booking.** Gmail is rejecting the confirmation mails. I receive an automatic notification. There is no need to tell me you booked a meeting.
- **Unless I tell you otherwise**, the default location for in-person meetings will be **room 2.11 in the School of Economics**.
- Please note that there will be meetings available during the whole year. Demand usually increases close to deadlines, but I do not anticipate to make more slots available close to deadlines.

2 Data

The data you need is evidently question dependent. However, no matter your research question, focus on looking for publicly available data. Restricted data usually involves slow bureaucracy, which makes it hard to get in time for your project.

Some (potentially) useful sources of publicly available data are:

- [IPUMS USA](#) for Decennial Censuses from the United States (predominantly income, work and demographic data).
- [IPUMS CPS](#) for monthly data from the US Current Population Survey (predominantly income, work and demographic data).
- [IPUMS International](#) for census data from multiple countries (predominantly income, work and demographic data).
- [DHS](#): demographic and health survey data for several developing countries.

- **UK Data Service:** for data from the UK. This includes the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, panel data, and lots of other datasets.

Most of these websites will require you to create an account with them, but you should be able to download most of the data once you registered.

3 Software

There is no restriction on the software you use to do your dissertation. However, be aware that I will be most helpful for questions related to Stata, Matlab or R.

4 Communication

- I am happy to answer your questions via email. However, bear in mind that there are some questions that are more effectively answered in a meeting.
 - The best questions to ask by mail are those that call for a quick and concrete answer.
 - Questions whose answers require a lot of elaboration are most likely best answered in a meeting. If you ask one of these questions I will likely ask you to book a meeting.
- If you have a question related to code, or some specific results please include screenshots in your mail.
- I usually answer mails relatively quickly, either in the evening or the next morning.
- If after 2 working days I haven't answered your mail, feel free to remind me. Chances are that I missed your mail or I read it and somehow I forgot to answer.

5 Literature Review

When doing your literature review focus on papers on good outlets. The list below applies to questions related to labor or development economics. It is not exhaustive, but it includes most journals worth attention for these fields.

- American Economics Review
- Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Review of Economics and Statistics
- Review of Economic Studies
- Journal of Political Economy
- Journal of Labor Economics
- Labour Economics
- Economic Journal
- European Economic Review
- Journal of Development Economics
- Management Science
- Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization