**Teaching and Learning Centre podcasts: the DISSERTATION SERIES**

**Structure your dissertation - worksheet**

Use this worksheet to consider how you will build your dissertation – which sections you will include, the main function of each of your sections, and approximately how long each section should be. If a section presented here does not apply to your project – cross it out. Likewise, if you have other parts that will be included in your dissertation, write them in.

The important point is that you see that a dissertation is not actually one very long paper, but several short, ***interconnected***, pieces of writing!

|  |
| --- |
| introduction  approximate word count: |
|  | |
| literature/theory part  approximate word count: |
|  |
| research project / (case) study / methods  approximate word count: |
|  |
| findings / results  approximate word count: |
|  |
| discussion  approximate word count: |
|  | |
| conclusion  approximate word count: |

These are some examples of suggestions and guidelines from various departments for structuring (10,000-word) dissertations. Perhaps these—along with any advice you receive in your own departments—can give you some inspiration!

Introduction (≈ 1500 words)

Literature review (≈ 3000 words)

Data and Analysis (≈ 3000 words)

Conclusion (≈ 1500 words)

Introduction ( ≈ 500 words )

Literature review ( ≈ 3000-4000 words )

Research project ( ≈ 3000-4000 words )

* methods
* results

Discussion ( ≈ 1000-2000 words )

Conclusion ( ≈ 500 words )

Abstract (≈ 300 words)

Introduction (≈ 500 words)

Literature Review (≈ 2000-3000 words)

Methodology (≈ 1000-2000 words)

* research design
* research process
* instruments
* sampling
* procedure
* method of analysis

Results of Analysis (≈ 3000-5000 words)

Discussion and/or Conclusion (≈ 1000 words)

Abstract (≈ 300 words)

Introduction (≈ 700 words)

Theoretical Chapter (≈ 3300 words)

* literature review (≈ 2500 words)
* conceptual framework (≈ 500 words)
* research question / objectives of the research (≈ 300 words)

Research Design and Methodology (≈ 1500 words)

* research strategy / design (≈ 1000 words)
* methods and procedures (≈ 500 words)

Results and Interpretation (≈ 4000 words)

Conclusion (≈ 500 words)