

Course Code:

PDIS203

Session:

2017/18

1. Course Title:

Preparing for your Dissertation

2. Version

1.0

Date of Production/Revision:

2017/18

Approval Date4th October 2017 - AC**3. Level:**

SCQF Level 11

4. Credits:

20 Credits

5. Lead School/Board of Studies:

Learning and Teaching Team | School of Design

6. Course Contact:Maddy Sclater | Senior Academic Fellow in Digital Learning | m.sclater@gsa.ac.uk**7. Course Aims:**

The course provides students the opportunity to:

1. Develop an effective research proposal for their chosen field of study;
2. Explore ethical practices in educational research;
3. Develop their critical capacities as reflective and reflexive higher education researchers;
4. Examine and explore the role of creativity in the development of educational research;
5. Cultivate their knowledge and understanding of the impact and inter-relationships of, policy, practice and research upon higher education and their own educational role and practices;
6. Develop their knowledge, skills and approach to undertaking significant pieces of educational research in creative arts contexts.

8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

Students who successfully complete their 'Preparing for your Dissertation' course will be able to:

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1. Produce a rigorous plan for a significant piece of educational research which demonstrates originality and creativity within their own creative disciplinary and/or professional context and outlines the nature of the problem, challenge or issue to be explored;
2. Critically interrogate, synthesise and create a short summary of a defined area of pedagogical research literature in relation to their identified research area;
3. Identify a coherent research question, objective, or hypothesis;
4. Identify and respond to ethical implications within the research;
5. Devise and articulate a clear and appropriate research rationale and design, selecting appropriate research methods and methodologies and forms of analysis to produce credible findings;
6. Cultivate their knowledge and understanding of the impact and inter-relationships of, policy, practice and research upon higher education and their own educational role and practices.

9. Indicative Content:

- Developing a research question
- Developing a research design
- Outlining the project to be investigated and contextualising it within the field
- Ethical practices in research related to the outlined project
- Research methods and methodologies

10. Description of Summative Assessment:

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Research Proposal	A 4,000 to 5,000 word research proposal	90%	11
2	Ethics Submission	A completed and approved ethical assessment	10%	11

10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

A 4,000 to 5,000 word research proposal that summarises the approach the student plans to take in their dissertation; scope, literature, research aims and questions, methods and methodologies, analytical approaches, ethical considerations. This should also include a completed and approved ethical assessment on a topic to be agreed with the student's supervisor and the programme leader alongside a detailed consideration of all the ethical issues within the study.

Participants submit work electronically and each submission is assessed by two markers, one of whom will normally be the student's supervisor. All dissertations will be available to the external examiner.

11. Formative Assessment:

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Students are required to meet with the course team regularly over the period of the course to provide updates on their research project. Formative feedback is offered through project supervision tutorials and students are able to submit a draft of their work.

11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

As above

12. Collaborative:

Yes

No

12.1 Teaching Institutions:

13. Requirements of Entry:

Achieved a successful Pass as a result of completing Learning and Teaching in the Creative Practices
Achieved a successful Pass as a result of completing Educational Enquiry and Research Methods
Achieved a successful Pass as a result of completing Learning and Teaching Action Research Project
Achieved a successful Pass as a result of completing Pedagogies and Practices in Supervision
Achieved a successful Pass as a result of completing Supervisory Practices Action Research Project

14. Co-requisites:

N/A

15. Associated Programmes:

M.Ed in Learning, Teaching and Supervisory Practices in the Creative Disciplines

16. When Taught:

Semester 2

17. Timetable:

The course is delivered through regular one to one or small group tutorials with the course team. These are to be agreed with students at the outset of the course. A formal induction is scheduled for the course in week 1.

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18. Available to Visiting Students:	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

19. Distance Learning:	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

20. Placement:	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

21. Learning and Teaching Methods:		
Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation		
Tutorial	4	4
Workshop	2	2
Laboratory work		
Project work		194
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study		
Other (please specify below)		
TOTAL	6	200

22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:
N/A

23. Additional Relevant Information:
N/A

24. Indicative Bibliography:

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Biggam & John, 2015. *Succeeding With Your Master'S Dissertation: A Step-By-Step Handbook*, McGraw-Hill Education (UK).

Dillard, D., 2014. Research Guides: LITERATURE REVIEW: How to Create a Literature Review: Dissertation and Theses Finding and Writing Sources. Available at: <http://guides.temple.edu/c.php?g=101368&p=831004>.

Herr, K. & Anderson, G.L., 2014. *The Action Research Dissertation: A Guide for Students and Faculty*, SAGE Publications.

Jones, P., 2016. Writing your dissertation: a survival guide. *The British journal of nursing*, 25(19), p.1044. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2016.25.19.1044>.

Rudestam, K.E. & Newton, R.R., 2014. *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, SAGE Publications.

Sterne, N., 2015. *Challenges in Writing Your Dissertation: Coping with the Emotional, Interpersonal, and Spiritual Struggles*, Rowman & Littlefield.

In addition subject specific reading dependent on choice of project topic.