

## **EDU 5001**

### **Dissertation Study-Unit (20 ECTS)**

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Chairperson  
MTL Dissertations Committee  
Faculty of Education

## **Documents Regulating this study-unit**

Documents to consult:

- the Faculty of Education Policy regarding the Dissertation
- the General Regulations for University Post Graduate Awards (2008),
- the University Assessment Regulations (2009),
- the University of Malta Procedures for Boards of Examiners of Master Dissertations,
- the Bye-laws for the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL)

## Objectives

The study-unit aims to:

- enable student-teachers to plan, design and carry out a small independent research project on an educational issue that is grounded in practice;
- support the development of the skills of inquiry, reflection and research;
- allow student-teachers to identify an appropriate research method/s for their project and understand its underlying methodology,
- encourage the use of research to enhance the relation between theory and practice;
- foster a commitment to life-long learning and continuous professional development;
- help student-teachers understand the importance of research in informing and transforming educational practices (both personal and within the educational community).

## The Proposal- submission

Proposals are to be submitted to the  
Dissertations Committee by:

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

Please submit your Proposal at the Office of  
Mr. Arnold Dingli (Rm 328, Faculty of  
Education)

## The Proposal

The proposal is a master plan for the research study. The proposal should be extremely focused (NOT MORE than 300 words). In evaluating the proposals, the Dissertation Committee will take into consideration the following criteria

- i. that the proposed work may be completed in 500 hrs;
- ii. that the abstract demonstrates that the proponent has conducted some preliminary readings;
- iii. that the work is of an advanced or original nature in the area of study
- iv. that the proposed research design allows enough time for adequate analysis;
- v. in the case of empirical studies the proposed research method/s is/are feasible and adequate for the data that the student proposes to gather

## The Proposal: where do I start?

- What area would I like to work in? Can I find some interesting questions in this area?
- How much is already known about this area of study? What can I read to learn more? Are there any dissertations in this area?
- Can I think of a potential supervisor?
- What sort of work is feasible to do?
- Which methodology best fits the type of research?

## The Proposal: help

- Research projects that are being proposed by members of the academic staff.
- Hydi
- Google Scholar
- The profile page of the members of the Faculty of Education

## Research Design

There are various methodologies.  
Your choice will largely depend on  
your

RESEACH QUESTION

If your design involves human  
subjects than it is likely that you  
need ethical clearance

## Supervisor

51 (5) Principal Supervisors shall be responsible for providing guidance to students under their care in the following areas:

- (a) assisting students to select and elaborate a research problem and to formulate a written proposal for their dissertation;
- (b) offering ideas and providing guidance and encouragement on the planning and progress of research, submission of the dissertation, and publication of results;
- (c) providing or arranging instruction in research methodology, including use of information technology;
- (d) guiding students in acquiring and improving appropriate generic skills, including written and oral communication, numeracy, decision-taking and organisational and management skills;
- (e) making students aware of the manner in which research results are reported and that they understand the implications of plagiarism and other unbecoming academic practices

## Eligible Supervisors and Advisors

- Principal Supervisors need to be in possession of a Doctoral Degree and they need to be members of staff of the Faculty of Education.
- In exceptional circumstances, the Dissertation Committee **may** ask the Faculty Board to approve the appointment of Principal Supervisors and Co-Supervisors who do not have a Doctoral Degree or who do not form part of the Faculty of Education
- Before assigning the supervision of a dissertation, the Dissertation Committee shall ascertain that the member of staff is not supervising more than seven post-graduate degree dissertations in any one academic year.

## The Proposal: its outcome

The committee may make one of the following decisions:

- Accepted
- Referred for amendments
- Rejected

## The dissertation progress diary

- Student fills in a short report about meetings with the supervisor and advisor. These reports are signed by supervisor.
- The diary will be handed in to the examination board of the dissertation.
- Students may also be requested to hand in their progress diary at some stage after they start working on their dissertation

## Permission to present parts of the research

During the process of writing, in conjunction with their Principal Supervisors and/or Co-Supervisors, students may present part of the materials that will be submitted in the final version of the dissertation at Seminars, Conferences, in academic peer-reviewed journals and other academic peer reviewed publications. In such cases a statement to this effect must be submitted on presentation of the dissertation for examination.

## Rough Timeline

