

Masters in Open and Networked Higher Education (MONHE)

MONHE Dissertation Proposal Development Guidelines

As part of the MONHE programme of study, students are required to engage in a self-directed research study leading to a dissertation of between 15,000 – 20,000 words long.

Below are key steps with proposed due dates for students to follow in preparation for this research study:

MONHE Cohort 1 (2022-2025)	
<i>Task</i>	<i>Proposed due date</i>
Decide on an area to research	June 2023
Find a supervisor	October 2024
Write a proposal	February 2024
Submit proposal to the MONHE BoS	April 2024
Submit an application for obtaining FREC ethical clearance to conduct research	June 2024

1. *Decide on an area to research*

The taught part of the study programme and further reading of academic literature helps you to identify an area which interests you. Seek to formulate 2/3 research questions you want to pursue in doing research.

[Study-units Research Methods I \(ACA5056\)](#) and [Research Methods II \(ACA5057\)](#) will support you to find an area to research and formulate research questions.

2. *Find a supervisor*

The supervisor holds a PhD and is an expert in the field you mean to research. You can have an advisor or a co-supervisor if your research area spreads across more than one knowledge area.

[Study-units Research Methods I \(ACA5056\)](#) and especially [Research Methods II \(ACA5057\)](#) will support you to find a supervisor – and possibly an advisor or co-supervisor to support you in your research and dissertation development.

3. *Write your proposal*

Your research proposal will include a brief introduction to the research problem, a rationale leading you to the research questions you ask, an initial consideration of the literature serving to clarify why it is important to pursue this research, a suitable research approach and related methods to help carry out the research. In your proposal you should consider possible limitations and potential ethical issues involved. You should also include a list of references and a suggested timeline for your research.

[Study-units Research Methods I \(ACA5056\)](#) and [Research Methods II \(ACA5057\)](#) will support you to write your research proposal.

4. *Submit proposal to the MONHE Board of Studies (BoS)*

You submit the proposal in Microsoft Word (.docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) format to the MONHE study programme Administrator. The proposal will be reviewed by members of the MONHE BoS who either accept, accept with amendments or reject your proposal. Until the proposal is accepted you will need to resubmit the revised proposal or resubmission as the case may be.

5. *Submit an application to the Faculty Review Ethics Committee (FREC) for obtaining ethical clearance to conduct the proposed research.*

Once your proposal is accepted by the MONHE BoS you can proceed to write and submit an application to FREC for obtaining the required ethical clearance to conduct research.

[Study-unit Research Methods II \(ACA5057\)](#) will introduce you to FREC processes and the FREC application requirements.