



Master in Maltese Studies – **Dissertation Proposal Guidelines**

Some General Guidelines:

- i. The proposed dissertation title is to be discussed with the Director of the Institute of Maltese Studies (IMS) or his delegate.
- ii. Students are to consult with the Director of the IMS in connection with the appointment of a proposed supervisor/s for the dissertation.
- iii. Students are to consult with their respective proposed supervisor about the Dissertation Proposal submission.
- iv. The proposed topic must be relevant to the Institute's mission statement and should ideally reflect an inter-disciplinary approach.
- v. Students should avoid topics that overlap with previous research projects, including dissertations submitted to other Faculties, Institutes and Centres at the University of Malta.
- vi. Students should aim to present original and innovative research ideas that are a contribution to knowledge on aspects of Maltese culture.
- vii. Students should not initiate their research before receiving the approval of the dissertation proposal from the IMS Board.
- viii. Students must complete the University Research Ethics Committee Application (URECA) form once the dissertation proposal has been approved by the IMS Board. (For more information on this form visit: <https://www.um.edu.mt/maltesestudies/study/researchethics/>, further queries need to be sent to: research-ethics.arts@um.edu.mt)

Dissertation Proposal Format

1. Proposed Title of dissertation (max 20 words)

2. ID Card No. and Name of student

3. Name of the proposed supervisor/s

4. Introduction

4.1. *Objective of the proposed dissertation (200 words)*

- Discuss and examine the theme being researched from an academic and cultural perspective
- Why this topic is of interest to one's area of studies and how will it contribute to the particular area under research
- Include research gaps
- Provide information on the layout of the dissertation

5. Literature Review

5.1. *Brief description of the subject matter of the dissertation (250 words)*

[Provide a summary of the topic under study, including key definitions that help address the research, taking into account both local and international literature.]

6. Methodology

6.1. *The hypothesis and/or the research question/s to be considered (150 words)*

6.2. *The adopted method of research and the research tools (100 words)*

7. The expected contribution and implications (100 words)

8. The layout of the proposed dissertation (200 words)

An example of the layout:

Chapter 1

Introduction

Includes:

Objective of the dissertation

The research question and brief description of the methodology

The layout of the dissertation

Chapter 2

Literature review

Relating to the main themes covered by the dissertation.

Chapter 3

Methodology

Detailed description of the proposed methodology to be used to obtain the results, including the hypothesis and/or research question/s and the specific research tools that you intend to use to answer to your research question or test the hypothesis.

Chapter 4

Results

Presentation and discussion of the results.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Highlight policy implications, the limitations of the study and recommendations for further research.

9. Bibliography (*not more than 10 books at this proposal stage*)

The referencing style to be adopted is that of the American Psychological Association (APA). The publications cited are to be listed in the references section at the end of the dissertation, in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames. Do not divide the list of references into many sections, such as, books, articles, etc. List all publications together, as this makes it easier to trace the author of the cited publication.

10. Schedule for Completion of Dissertation in line with this Dissertation Proposal Format.

Indicate your timeline plan for completion of the dissertation.

I confirm that I have consulted with the above proposed supervisor, before submitting this dissertation proposal.

Signature

Date of Submission

N.B. The number of words in the brackets are indicative but ideally not to be exceeded, except for the words in the dissertation title, which are not to exceed 20 words.

November 2023