

**GRADUATE SCHOOL of LITERATURES, LANGUAGES, and CULTURES
UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH**

PREPARING THE MSc DISSERTATION

SUMMER 2009

The dissertation is normally written between May and July, with August devoted to correcting, fact-checking, final proofreading, and physical preparation. Submission of the dissertation in the correct format is an integral part of the dissertation project.

Students are reminded that the dissertation *must not* incorporate, in total or in part, any of the essays submitted for core or option courses during the teaching semesters. Marks for coursework essays count, alongside the mark for the dissertation, towards the final grading of the degree, and thus the School will not award two marks for the same piece of work. If there is any doubt over whether a particular piece of work ought to be included for submission, the student should footnote such material and indicate clearly how and where it was used previously.

It is the student's and not the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that corrections are made and that proper formatting is followed. Supervisors' and students' rights and responsibilities during the dissertation stage are described in section 7.2 of the *Code of Practice for Taught Postgraduate Programmes*, which is available at:

<http://www.postgrad.ed.ac.uk/mascode>

LENGTH

This is a work of independent research of **15,000 words**, *including* quotations, footnotes, and bibliography. Special prior permission is required for dissertations that extend beyond that limit. Check your student handbook for further details.

DUE DATE

Two identical copies of the dissertation must be submitted to the student's respective programme secretary on or before **4 p.m. on 21 August 2009** (except for students in MChS, who have a later deadline). Students in Cultural Studies, Comparative Literature, European Theatre, and Film Studies should submit their dissertations to Heather Elliott. Dissertations should not be submitted at any time after this date except in exceptional circumstances that must be cleared with the supervisor in writing.

PHYSICAL FORMAT

MSc dissertations in most subject areas should conform to the *MLA Handbook, Chicago Manual of Style*, or other authorized style with regard to formatting, pagination, page numbering, citation method, and Works Cited page. For guidance, click on

<http://www.llc.ed.ac.uk/Research-Methods/styleguidance.htm>

(Paper size should be A4 and not US Letter.) Students in English Literature must use *MLA*.

Students in Film Studies and Cultural Studies are invited to prepare two separate lists of Works Cited: one of primary materials (such as films) and one of secondary works. Further, FS and CS students may use Chicago or APA format if they wish.

Students in Medieval Studies should use MHRA, after consulting with their respective supervisor. Students in Asian Studies should confer with their supervisors.

Use a 12-point font, preferably Times New Roman; double-space the entire document. In addition, attach a title-page, which will list the following, in 12-point, centred:

- Your matriculation number (**do not type your name anywhere in the dissertation**)
- The descriptive title of the dissertation
- MSc course name (e.g., MSc Literature and Transatlanticism), followed by:
- Graduate School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures
- University of Edinburgh
- and the date of submission.

The next page will comprise a Table of Contents, which will list every section and chapter, including the Works Cited. There is no need to create an Index.

On a page separate from the dissertation, print the following sentence:

My signature certifies that this dissertation [insert the title of the dissertation] represents my own original work, the result of my own original research, and that I have clearly cited all sources. Then sign your name and print the date beneath it.

This page must be submitted with the dissertation. Ensure that it is **not** bound with it.

BINDING

The dissertation should be mounted either in a black soft binding with a clear cover (available from the Copy Shop in the basement of the David Hume Tower) or a black comb binding (available from the Print Shop in the basement of the University Library). Binding is also available from the Language and Humanities Centre. Allow yourself plenty of time before the submission deadline to get your dissertation properly bound in one of these two ways.

Congratulations!

Dr. Adam Budd
Graduate School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures
E-mail: adam.budd@ed.ac.uk
URL: <http://www.llc.ed.ac.uk/research-methods>