



Assessment criteria for undergraduate dissertations

- **Plagiarism check.**

- **Introduction** (weight: 10%)
 1. Is a research question/problem clearly articulated, explained & justified?
 2. Are specific aims outlined?
 3. Are all keywords and key concepts clearly explained?
 4. Is appropriate background to the research topic provided?

- **Literature Review** (Weight 20%)
 1. Does the dissertation identify and describe appropriate literature relevant to the topic of study?
 2. Does the dissertation demonstrate competence in understanding, evaluating and critiquing this material?
 3. Is previous scholarly material incorporated competently (e.g. by quotation, paraphrase, and/or commentary) and appropriately acknowledged through citation?
 4. Have any similarities and/or differences between this dissertation and previous investigations been clearly indicated?

5. Has prior material been linked to the present study?
6. Has there been rigorous regard to accuracy and thoroughness?

- **Methodology** (Weight 20%)

1. Is there evidence that appropriate methodological literature has been read and relevant concepts understood?
2. Has an appropriate and coherent overall research design been clearly elaborated?
3. Are there clear links to the research question and/or theoretical framework?
4. Have any methodological similarities and/or differences between this dissertation and previous investigations been noted?
5. If appropriate, have alternative methods been considered and discussed?
6. Are any limitations addressed and accounted for?
7. Has there been rigorous regard to accuracy and thoroughness?
8. If relevant, has there been due consideration of any arising ethical issues?
9. If relevant, is the programming or other implementation effort adequate?

- **Results and analysis** (Weight 20%)

1. Does the dissertation address the topic, explore its relevant parameters, and draw in materials relevant to its key arguments?
2. Are results/analysis presented clearly and in the most relevant fashion?
3. Does the dissertation present coherent and strong arguments?
4. Does the dissertation base all claims on presented data/materials?
5. Has there been rigorous regard to accuracy and thoroughness of both the presentation of data/materials and claims linked to them?

- **Conclusions** (Weight 10%)

1. Does the dissertation have a well-articulated conclusion, incorporating the major findings of the project and referring back to the research question/problem?
2. Does the dissertation reflect on its results and arguments in the context of relevant theory, practice, and/or methodology?
3. Is there critical discussion of key issues arising from the research, in terms of what was discovered, achieved, established, and argued?
4. Are relevant and interesting future research directions discussed?

- **Structure** (Weight 10%)

1. Does the dissertation have a logical structure, when considering its subject matter and overall approach?
2. Is there an appropriate form of introduction and conclusion to the dissertation?
3. Does the structure assist the overall development of the argument and/or the presentation of the scholarly project?
4. Does the dissertation distinguish major from minor points and apportion its word allocation accordingly?
5. Is there an excessive reliance on quotation, paraphrase, or other primary or secondary material?
6. Does the dissertation conform to the word length requirement of ca 10,000 – 12,000 words, exclusive of front pages, abstract, reference list, and appendices?
7. Does the dissertation provide as appendices all supplementary illustrative or supportive documentation referred to in the main body of the dissertation?
8. Is the standard of written expression acceptable?

- **References** (Weight 10%)

1. Are all cited works adequately referenced?

2. Does the dissertation use a consistent reference format (the ILLT recommends APA)