Dissertation Writing Skills in English

Docente | Teacher: Eoin Higgins

Duración | Duration: 16 horas

Sesiones | Sessions: 21, 23, 28, 30 enero, 4, 6, 11, 13 febrero 2019, 17:00-19:00

Aula | Classroom: 17.1.02, Edificio Ortega y Gasset (Campus de Getafe)

Nivel de inglés requerido | English level required: B.2 / C.1

Objectives

All theses, no matter what the subject or discipline, contain similar sections which involve similar language. In this course, we will analyze the standard structure of a typical doctoral thesis and study the language used for different sections. We will provide input, activities and personalized guidance to help doctoral students make their theses read/sound more natural, fluent and correct.

We will also discuss other issues involved in the writing process: language research, drafting, editing and proofreading, style and “wordiness”.

Contents

- **Introduction**: stating the problem; explaining how you are going to deal with the problem; limiting your scope; outlining the structure of your thesis
- **Background**: presenting the relevant history and the context of your study; explaining current knowledge, theory and practice.
- **Core**: your hypothesis or research questions; explaining the methodology used to test your hypothesis; explaining why you chose the methodology; reporting the results
- **Synthesis**: discussing the implications of your research; drawing conclusions; checking your conclusions match the introduction

Methodology

Practical individual, pair work and group work activities of text analysis of samples from real doctoral theses; proofreading and editing activities; discussion of style; analysis of typical language and style errors.

Students will be required to do some writing as homework in order to practice the skills and language presented in class.
**Evaluation**

Students must attend 75% of the course to receive a passing grade. The final mark is based on continuous evaluation (50%) and completion of classroom assignments (50%).

**Bibliography and references**


Godfrey, J (2013) *The Student Phrase Book: Vocabulary for Writing at University*, Palgrave Study Skills


Morley, J (2015) *The Academic Phrasebank*, University of Manchester (http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/)

Williams, K (2010) *Planning Your PhD*, Palgrave Study Skills