STUDYSmarter
WRITESmart, (meta-)Smart, GETSmart

Kick start your research
STUDYSMARTER RESEARCH SERIES

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"A journey of a thousand kilometres starts with a single step."
– with apologies to Lao Tzu
KICK START
What will stimulate encourage spur provoke arouse you to start your research?

Doing research: what's involved?
Setting clear goals Planning What else? Writing

Goal setting: Keep in mind
- Your research goals, your interests?
- Key researchers, research, texts, ideas, concepts?
- Plan for collecting data or primary and secondary sources?
- A system to keep track of what you collect
- The length of your thesis or dissertation
- Assessment criteria (formatting, structure, expression, etc.)
- A work routine

Simplified Research ‘Journey’


Linear Model
"It's always been in between the things I thought I was doing that the real work has happened." – William Kentridge

Plan

**Aim** – a high quality thesis, finished on time

What's needed?

**Effective time management**

What's needed?

Timelines – weekly, semester, yearly

What will you use?

- Coop wall planner
- Gantt chart
- Other?
**Get the timing right**

- Think about sequence of tasks
- Use backward planning
- Identify critical points
- Take into account false starts, dead ends, rewrites
- Set new goals & review timeline if needed
- Be realistic

**An effective timeline - what to include**

- **Data collection** – experiments, library research, interviews, etc.
- **Analysis** – software training
- **Supervisor consultations**
- **Reading, Writing, Thinking**
- **Draft submissions** – think about response time
- **Seminars & oral presentations**
- **Coursework requirements**
- **Personal and social activities**
- **Other?**

**Working with supervisors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Their role</strong></td>
<td>Give advice on readings, Provide constructive feedback, Monitor and evaluate your writing and progress, Discuss the aims, scope &amp; presentation of your research</td>
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**What about your role?**

- Be proactive
- Discuss expectations
- Negotiate mutual responsibilities
- Adhere to timeline or review
- Respond to feedback
- Don’t disappear!
Write regularly

No writing, no dissertation.

Start writing early. Don’t wait for a blinding flash of inspiration.

You’ll develop, refine & get clarity about ideas through the process of thinking, researching, writing, and talking about your research.

Upcoming Honours & Masters workshops

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10 March 12-1</td>
<td>Write your research proposal</td>
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<td>Thurs 12 March 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17 March 12-1</td>
<td>Write your literature review</td>
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<td>Thurs 19 March 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24 March 12-1</td>
<td>Write your thesis or dissertation</td>
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<td>Thurs 26 March 1-2</td>
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<td>Tues 31 March 12-1</td>
<td>Communicate your research to an audience</td>
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<td>Thurs 2 April 1-2</td>
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<td>Tues 14 April 12-1</td>
<td>Practise your seminar presentation</td>
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<td>Thurs 16 April 1-2</td>
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References & additional resources

Cone, JD & Foster, SL 1996 Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish, American Psychological Association, Washington.

Graduate Research Booklets on a range of topics for Arts, Humanities and Social Science and Applied Science students
http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops/booklets

Manchester University Phrasebank http://www.phrasbank.manchester.ac.uk/


Reverse outlining https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/support/writingcenter/resourcesforwriters/review/reverse_outline

Thesis Whisperer http://thesiswhisperer.com/about/

Tomorrow’s Professor, sponsored by Stanford University
Free Study Advice

WRITESmart

Every day, 10am-12pm.
Reid Library, Ground floor.