DISSERTATION/CONSULTANCY PROJECT

Your dissertation/consultancy project (10,000-15,000 words) is an extended project that demonstrates your ability to do independent research and offers an opportunity for an in-depth investigation into a topic area that can be adapted to reflect your interests and career choices.

There are some differences in expected content between the dissertation and the consultancy project, and these are outlined further below. But some content elements are the same for both.

Common content elements and guidance for both types of extended research project

All dissertations/consultancy projects should include:

- Title Page
    - Your title page should include the title of your investigation, your name and student number and the date.
- Abstract
    - The abstract is a short summary of the complete content of your dissertation/consultancy project. It concisely sets out the following:
        - Your research topic and why you chose it;
        - The main aim of your research and how you conducted it;
        - Your findings;
        - The key conclusions and (if appropriate) recommendations and reflection.
    - A good abstract will give the reader the full 'story' of the dissertation from beginning to end, like an executive summary in a professional report.
    - Suggested length for the abstract is 350 words, maximum no more than a page of single spaced text.
    - You complete your abstract *after* the whole project has been written.
- Table of Contents, Table of Tables, Table of Figures
    - These elements should clearly identify where sections are and what pages these start on. You are strongly suggested to use the facilities in Word to create these elements.
- *Main body of the dissertation/consultancy project in different sections*
    - These are specific to the type of extended research project you choose to do.
    - Please see below for the content sections/guidance for each type.
    - Section:
        - Literature review
        - Findings
        - Discussion
        - Implementation plan
        - Conclusion
        - Recommendations
        - Limitation of the Project

- References
    - You must use the Harvard style of referencing.
    - It is recommended that you keep your references up to date throughout your research project (otherwise this becomes an arduous task at the end!) using something like RefWorks;
- Appendices

- Appendices should be limited to providing detailed information, particularly results, frameworks or concepts employed or supporting material, that are not appropriate for inclusion in the main text.