



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
**National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens**

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES



# Dissertation Guide

MSC IN MEDIA & REFUGEE/MIGRATION FLOWS



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### **Choosing a Dissertation Topic**

Students have to choose a dissertation topic in collaboration with their supervisors until the end of the winter semester. Students who wish to do their dissertation, under the supervision of academic staff teaching the specialization courses of the spring semester, should contact them in advance for the final formation of the topic.

Each year, at the beginning of March, the Special Committee of the Postgraduate Program approves the topics and appoints, upon Coordinating Committee's (CC) recommendation, the supervisors and two additional members composing the Examination Committee.

Members of academic staff can also propose a list of dissertation topics that students can select from. The topics could be uploaded to the e-class platform under the folder "List of Theses".

The topics need to combine scientific and practical interest, methodological research approaches, interdisciplinarity and be relevant to the courses taught and the refugee /migration subject in general.

### **Dissertation Supervisors**

Supervisors must be members of the academic staff of the Program "Media and Refugee / Migration Flows". In case of necessity for additional supervisors, as such can be appointed DEP (Teaching and Research Staff) and EDIP (Laboratory Teaching Staff) members of the University Department (i.e. from the Department of Communication and Media Studies of NKUA) and or DEP (Teaching and Research Staff) and EDIP (Laboratory Teaching Staff) members from other Universities in Greece or abroad. Supervisors' expertise should be relevant to the overall subject of the postgraduate program and to the topic of the dissertation.

The supervisors are approved each March by the Special Committee and they systematically support the students during three distinct stages: a)formation of topic and research questions, b)literature review and research methodology, c)analysis and interpretation of results. The aim is to complete the dissertation within the suggested time period.

Members of academic staff of the IPP Media and Refugee /Migration Flows can serve as members of the examination committee. In case of necessity for additional examination committee members, as such can be appointed DEP (Teaching and Research Staff) and EDIP (Laboratory Teaching Staff) members of the University Departments (i.e. from the Department of Communication and Media Studies of NKUA) and or DEP (Teaching and Research Staff) and EDIP (Laboratory Teaching Staff) members from other Universities in Greece or abroad. Members' expertise should be relevant to the overall subject of the postgraduate program and to the topic of the dissertation.



### **Dissertation Proposal**

The dissertation proposal is submitted to the Secretariat of the Program by completing a specific form (see Annex II). The student should state the provisional title of the dissertation as well as his/her supervisor. Dissertations' provisional titles and supervisors are then approved by the Special Committee by mid-March.

The dissertation proposal includes an indicative outline of the dissertation and more specifically the following:

- Provisional Title
- Description (brief overview of the proposed research topic, aim & objectives significance of study )
- Literature Review (brief)
- Research Methodology
- Indicative Bibliography

### **Dissertation Proposal and Supervision**

The dissertation proposal and indicative outline can be revised in collaboration with the supervisor. A change in the title or the subject of the dissertation can be allowed provided the supervisor gives his/her consent until it is submitted for evaluation by the three-member examination committee.

Co-authored dissertations are not accepted.

After its approval by the Special Committee, the student in collaboration with the supervisor set the dissertation timetable which includes three stages:

**A) From the beginning of March until the end of April:** defining the final research topic, research questions/hypotheses and literature review.

**B) From early May to July:** conducting and completion of fieldwork.

**C) From July to September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year:** Analysis and interpretation of results. Final revision by the supervisor and completion of the dissertation.

The abovementioned timetable is indicative.



## Indicative Dissertation Outline

### INTRODUCTION

The introduction to the dissertation should outline the background of the research study. The student should provide a description of the proposed research topic, the aim and objectives that the dissertation is going to address, the significance of the topic under study, the general methodological approach, as well as give an overview of the subsequent chapters of the dissertation.

Introduction is not numbered

### CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter includes a critical overview of the existing literature surrounding the chosen topic. Basic concepts and theoretical frameworks should be related to the objectives and research questions of the dissertation and presented in a detailed and critical manner. Appropriate sources for writing the literature review chapter are considered: articles in scientific journals, articles in collective volumes and book chapters. Information derived from the internet, especially from various blogs, is not considered scientifically reliable and should be avoided. Valid online sources are: Repositories of Doctoral Theses and Postgraduate Theses, Online Conference Proceedings, and other databases.

In the literature review part, it is necessary to cite any sources used (e.g. texts, tables, figures, etc.). Students should use a specific system of references. Indicatively, the APA 6 or the Harvard referencing system is recommended. The supervisor can provide guidance on how to search for sources, as well as give instructions on how to cite bibliographic sources, preferably using APA\_6

The literature review is the backbone for writing any scientific text. The process of reading the existing literature, sources and scholarly material can be facilitated by keeping notes/summaries. An appropriate literature review doesn't summarize existing sources, instead it analyzes and critically evaluates the state of knowledge on the subject. The literature review will be used at the end in the discussion and comparative evaluation of the results of the dissertation in relation to those of previous studies.



## **CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The Research Methodology chapter should describe:

- (a) The general orientation of the research methodology (e.g. qualitative or quantitative research or combination of methods / triangulation) and the research method followed (e.g. survey, content analysis, experiment, focus groups, in-depth interviews, observation).
- (b) The data collection instrument (e.g. questionnaire, coding scheme, semi-structured interview guide etc.) The design, content and construction of the data collection instrument should be organized and formatted into thematic units, which correspond to the basic concepts of the theoretical framework and are directly related to the research questions and research hypotheses.
- (c) The unit of analysis of the research, the characteristic data regarding the research population, the sampling method, measurement methods etc.
- (d) Various methodological issues related to the research, e.g. issues of validity and reliability of measurements etc.



### **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The chapter should include two subchapters:

3.1. Presentation of findings

3.2. Discussion of research findings

(a) Description of data processing and data analysis methods. For quantitative research the use of statistical methods must be documented, e.g. the methods of descriptive and inferential statistics. For qualitative research, the way of grouping, coding, analyzing and interpreting the qualitative data must be presented.

(b) Presentation of the findings that emerged from the analysis of the data according to established ways of presenting results of qualitative and quantitative methodology.

(c) The analysis and presentation of the research findings should follow the order of the research questions/research hypotheses of the dissertation by answering the research questions or by confirming or not the research hypotheses.

The subchapter 3.2., discussion of research findings, should not be just descriptive. Instead, it should include explaining and interpreting the results in relation to the literature review and the researcher's point of view.

### **CONCLUSIONS-SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

This section is the last part of the dissertation. It summarizes the research, states the answer to the main research question and discusses the theoretical implications of the findings (e.g. whether the results are confirmed or not in relation to previous studies and theories, how they promote empirical knowledge on the subject, etc.). Limitations of the research and any problems encountered during its writing (e.g. methodological limitations, limitations regarding the analysis and generalization of results, etc.) are also mentioned. In this part, the student should also make suggestions for further research that could be undertaken in the future related to the outcome of the research conducted or aspects of the topic that were not covered.



### **Additional information regarding the structure/Order of sections**

- **Title page:** The title page of the dissertation is included in the annex (see Annex I). It includes the logo of the University and the logo of the Program. The first page mentions the title of the dissertation, the name of the student, the supervisor and the date.
- **Statement of originality**
- **Dedication or a motto** (epigram)
- **Abstract** (The dissertation should include an abstract of approximately 350 words and up to 6 keywords which will be used for its classification to the institutional repository. Writing a good abstract is demanding and can only be completed after the full dissertation has been written. An abstract should include:
  - ✓ Aim and objectives
  - ✓ Research approach (based on the main research question/issue being addressed)
  - ✓ Innovation of the research
  - ✓ Boundaries
  - ✓ Methodology
  - ✓ Results
  - ✓ Conclusions
  - ✓ Recommendations /Suggestions that may arise)
- **Acknowledgments** (can be written in the Abstract or on a separate page)
- **Table of Contents**
- **List of Tables / Charts / Images**
- **Introduction**
- **Literature Review**
- **Research Methodology**
- **Findings**
- **Conclusion-Recommendations**
- **Bibliography** (Bibliography follows on a separate page and is listed in accordance with the proposed referencing system. Bibliography is not numbered as a chapter. The reference list is compiled in alphabetical order (by author) and then chronological. Attention: All references cited in the manuscript (e.g. direct quotations/paraphrasing) should be included in the reference list/ bibliography)
- **Annex** (Annex includes supporting material, such as: the questionnaire or the interview guide or the coding scheme of the research, tables of secondary importance, etc.)





### **Bibliographic References**

The APA 6<sup>th</sup> referencing system is adopted for bibliographic references, which are presented at the end of the dissertation. Each source presented in the reference list should correspond to an in-text citation. There are several components required for bibliographic entries, depending on the type of source, but the main ones include: author's name, year of publication, title, and source information (the components of a source may change depending on the format of the work you are citing). In the manuscript are presented only citations and references that have been studied, that is, the source from which all information was immediately drawn. An attempt should always be made, as a good scholarly practice, to identify the primary source, before using a secondary one. If this is not possible, then an in-text citation should indicate the secondary source from which the information was drawn (e.g. according to "source A"(2000), as cited in "source B"(2010)). The APA 6<sup>th</sup> manual is used as a detailed guide for documenting sources and it is added on eclass.

### **Text Requirements**

The dissertation is submitted in MS Office Word format in English language. A hard copy must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Department in order to receive a protocol number.

The page numbering must be continuous (excluding the title page).

The main text of the manuscript must be written in Times New Roman or Calibri font, with 12 point (12pts) font size and 1.5 spacing.

The length of the manuscript should be **at least 20,000 words** (excluding bibliography and appendices). The text must be printed on white A4 paper. Dissertations supported by audio-visual material can be **up to 15,000 words** length.



### **Examination- Dissertation defense**

The Dissertation is evaluated by holding an oral defense before a three-member examination committee, comprising of the supervisor and two other members of academic staff from the Program or from other University in Greece or abroad, appointed by the Special Committee after CC's recommendation.

The defense date is set after the three-member committee's decision and is announced on the website of the department and the website of the postgraduate program. The oral defense is mandatory and open to the students of the postgraduate program and the public. The examination of the dissertation is an integral part of its evaluation by the supervisor and the other two members of the examination committee. In case a student does not attend the examination on the given date, this will have a negative impact on the overall assessment of the dissertation.

The defense of the dissertation is taking place before the three-member examination committee, on a date and time arranged by the supervisor. In case external members (members of other Institutions) need to attend, the option of teleconference is given in order to facilitate the external members. The process of evaluation lasts approximately an hour.

The process starts with postgraduate students giving an oral presentation with visual support (e.g. powerpoint) a brief summary of their dissertation (lasting approximately 20'). The successful or unsuccessful evaluation of the dissertation is announced to the student and the audience by the supervisor. At the end of the public defense, the committee evaluates it from zero (0) to ten (10), with five (5) the minimum success rate. The Three-Member Examination Committee may with its decision return the dissertation for amendments or further clarifications/corrections within a period of up to one (1) month. The final evaluation is conducted by the abovementioned Committee. In case of rejection, the candidate is expelled from the Program. The final minutes of the Examination Committee are signed by all present members, while a separate document including the signatures of members of the committee voting in favor is incorporated into the dissertation's manuscript. The approved dissertation, after the completion of any corrections proposed by the committee and before the graduation ceremony, is submitted to the Secretariat in digital form and uploaded to "Pergamos", the unified Institutional Repository / Digital Library of the University of Athens (UoA).

### **Statement of originality**

In order to ensure the originality of the work, each student signs a statement of originality (attached) that the dissertation is a product of personal intellectual creation and represents his / her own views on the subject. It will also ensure that all authors and sources mentioned in the manuscript are referred in their entirety and fully correspond to the bibliographic references of the dissertation, excluding phenomena of plagiarism.



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ANNEX I: TITLE PAGE TEMPLATE



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 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND  
 MEDIA STUDIES

**MSC IN MEDIA & REFUGEE / MIGRATION FLOWS**

Dissertation

Title: .....

by

Name of Student

.....

Advisor.....

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree  
 Master of Science in Media & Refugee/Migration Flows

Athens, .././20...



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
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ANNEX II: DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM

**TO: THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE "MSC IN MEDIA AND REFUGEE/MIGRATION FLOWS"**

**Specialization:**

Student Name (Surname/ Given name):
Student Registration Number:
E-mail:
Provisional Title:
Description of research proposal (purpose of the study, significance, aim and objectives):  (approximately 300 words)
Literature Review (brief):  (approximately 300 words)
Research Methodology (research questions/hypotheses, method, sample, data collection instrument):  (approximately 300 words)
Indicative Bibliography:

**Student's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_



ANNEX III: STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY TEMPLATE

I responsibly declare that the submitted dissertation for the award of the diploma of the Postgraduate Program "Media and Refugee / Migration Flows", Specialization ..... of the Department of Communication and Media Studies/National and Kapodistrian University of Athens has been written by me personally and no one else has written the whole or part of it. In addition, I responsibly declare that this dissertation has not been submitted or approved for the award of any other postgraduate or undergraduate degree, in Greece or abroad. This dissertation represents my personal views on the subject. The sources I have used are mentioned in their entirety, giving full references to the authors, including internet sources.

In case of untrue or inaccurate statement, I am subject to the consequences according to the Regulation of Studies of the Postgraduate Program and the provisions of current legislation on intellectual property.

The Declarant

Name/Surname:

Registration Number:

Signature: