



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT
GUIDELINES FOR MA DISSERTATION
APRIL 2023**

Introduction

The general structure of the dissertation should be :

- *Preliminary pages*
- *An introduction to topic*
- *A literature review that surveys relevant sources*
- *A detailed introduction to the theoretical aspects*
- *Discussion on the core themes of the topic*
- *Data analysis and interpretation*
- *A conclusion that shows what your research has contributed*

The preliminary pages should contain a declaration by candidate, declaration by supervisor and certification by Head of the Department. The template of the same will be shared by the department. It should be followed by acknowledgments table of contents, table of diagrams, An abstract of 500 words and list of abbreviations.

01- Introduction- what, why and how of your research

- In the introduction, you set up your dissertation's topic, purpose, and relevance, and tell the reader what to expect in the rest of the dissertation. The introduction should. Establish your research topic, giving necessary background information to contextualise your work. Narrow down the focus and define the scope of the research
- Clearly state your objectives and research hypothesis , and indicate how you will answer them.
- Give a detailed description of your research methodology. You should generally include:
 1. The overall approach and type of research (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, experimental, ethnographic)
 2. Your methods of collecting data (e.g. interviews, surveys, archives)
 3. Details of where, when, and with whom the research took place
 4. Your methods of analysing data
 5. Tools and materials you used (e.g. computer programs, lab equipment)
 6. The limitations of the study should also be discussed

- Give an overview of your dissertation's structure-Chapter scheme
- Everything in the introduction should be clear, engaging, and relevant to your research. By the end, the reader should understand the what, why and how of your research.

02- Literature review

Before you start on your research, you should have conducted a literature review to gain a thorough understanding of the academic work that already exists on your topic.

- Discuss the state of existing research on the topic, showing your work's relevance to a broader problem or debate
- Critically evaluating and analysing each source
- Drawing connections between them (e.g. themes, patterns, conflicts, gaps) to make an overall point
- In the dissertation literature review chapter or section, you shouldn't just summarise existing studies, but develop a coherent structure and argument that leads to a clear basis or justification for your own research. It should aim to show how your research **Addresses a gap in the literature.**

03-Theoretical Frame work

In this part you have to bring the theoretical frame work of the study. How you are going to use the theory in your study is to be established. Different theories related to your subject can be brought in. But there should be focus on a core theory

04 Core Themes

The major research problem should be clearly addressed. The discussion should refer other scholarly work to show how your results fit with existing knowledge.

05 Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter may contain detailed data analysis. Each table/diagram should be analysed and results should be noted

Each table/Chart should be separately numbered

06 Conclusion

The dissertation conclusion should concisely answer the main research question, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of your central argument. Wrap up your dissertation with a final reflection on what you did and how you did it. The conclusion often also includes recommendations for future research.

In this section, it's important to show how your findings contribute to knowledge in the field and why your research matters.

You have to establish how your hypothesis is tested proved/rejected

All the findings and suggestions should pertain to your study. Generalization should be avoided

Reference list

You must include full details of all sources that you have cited in a reference list. It's important to follow a consistent reference style. We prefer APA style

A model of Journal reference is given

Ali, M., Olley , J., & Cotton , A. (1999). Public Sector Delivery of Waste Management Services: Cases from the Indian Sub-Continent. Habitat International, 23(4), 495-510.

A model of Book reference is given

Anderson, A. (1997). Media, Culture and the Environment. London: Routledge.

End Notes

End notes are preferred and can be given at the end of each chapter. It should be single spaced

Length

The size of dissertation should be 75-120 pages . The dissertation should be one sided and preferably hard bound.

SPACING

Block quotations, footnotes, and bibliographies: single spacing within each entry

Table of contents, list of tables, list of figures or illustrations, and lengthy tables: single spacing may be used

FONTS AND Spacing

Use Times new roman 12 point size. The spacing should be 1.5 and text should be justified

Plagiarism certificate from central library is compulsory For Final submission

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