



### Writing for Publication Level 1

#### Publishing Your Dissertation – Why Publish?

After completing their dissertation, some individuals decide that the next step is to publish their work. As well as providing you with experience of the publishing process, many personal and professional benefits can result from publishing your work:

- Improved research and writing skills
- Building connections with other researchers within your chosen field
- Personal achievement
- A sense of accomplishment
- Shows leadership, determination, and dedication to your work
- CV enhancing
- Can be the start of a successful academic career and increase opportunities for employment

The benefits of publication extend beyond personal achievement. Many students produce work and collect data that can be revolutionary to a field or subject area.

#### What can be published?

There are different types of research that can be published, for example:

**Original research:** Primary literature (original research) which is likely to range between 3,000-6,000 words with some journals requiring a higher word count depending on your area of research.

**Secondary Research:** Secondary research (exploring and analysing existing literature) is a type of research that is more likely to have a higher word count than original or empirical research. Not all journals will accept secondary research, therefore, it is important for you to check whether your selected journal accepts submissions of secondary research. You can find this information in the author guidelines.

**Book review:** can be published into some academic journals - a book review may be less time consuming than original research and review articles.

## **Top tips:**

Where should I start? Start Early!

### **Before you begin, ask yourself:**

- What kind of journal would I like my work to be published in?
- Who is my audience? Who will need to read my work?
- Is the research area highly specific? Or part of a broader area? Is it somewhere in-between?
- Is my work a full research article or simply better suited to a note?
- Which are the most common journals in my reference list?

### **Selecting a journal:**

It can be beneficial to select a journal early. By doing this, you...

- Eliminate a daunting choice which can be overwhelming after finishing your dissertation
- Keep specific guidelines for journals in mind when writing the dissertation, cutting down the need to drastically change your work in preparation for submission.

### **Format & Editing:**

Journals can have specific formatting requirements. Although each can vary from journal to journal, some general rules for formatting and editing are:

- Double line spacing
- Page numbering
- 2.5cm margins
- Tables and figures are added at the end of the work or in a separate file
- Headings typically include: abstract, keywords, introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgments, references

## **1. Do not rush**

Having a proactive approach will reduce the chance of rejection. Although rejection can be high, even for experienced researchers, preparing well and editing your work is essential to give you the best chance of success.

## **2. Think about time**

Make sure you look into your schedule and commitments outside of academic life. Do you think you can spare enough time to focus on your project and put in the additional work to make sure your work is ready for submission? Create a Gantt chart to help develop a timeline of activities for submission.

### **3. Are you serious about publishing and is your work at an appropriate standard for publication?**

If you understand the benefits of publishing and you know that you are able to commit to the publication process, make sure you assess your academic strength. For example, if you are looking to publish your dissertation, is your work up to a high standard?

### **4. Editing work**

When it comes to editing your work for publication, reading other work within your subject area can be beneficial. Being concise is extremely important in the final publication process!

### **5. Ask for help!**

Whether it's from your fellow classmates, previous students, or your supervisor, you do not have to go through the publication process on your own. It is beneficial to ask others to read over your work to check what you've written or to get a second opinion, as it can be hard to step back from your own work at times.

Lastly, enjoy the publication process! Publishing your dissertation is an incredible achievement and the time and effort that is put into the process will be worth the rewarding feeling at the end!

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