The DClinSci

A Guide to Assessment

What to do if you need advice?

- Academic supervisor
  - Contact administrators re guidelines
  - Liaise with Programme Directors about project content
  - Contact MAHSE about deferrals

- Workplace supervisor
  - liaise with line manager about time constraints
  - Contact NSHCS on HSST
  - Get advice on funding from the Commissioners

Brontë Dines-Allen

Libby Osborn

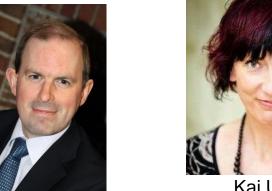Kate Smith

Jessica Bowler

The people who can help

Karen Kirkby

Anne White

Garry McDowell

Kai Uus

Julia Handley

Rebecca Dearman

Martin Stout

DClinSci Assessment

- Literature Report assessed by Supervisor

- Lay Talk-oral assessed by Panel

- Research Project Examined by Thesis & *viva voce* (with external examiner)

Literature Report

Aims of Report

- review the literature providing the background to the research

- identify the importance of the research area and what is controversial

- formulate a hypothesis based on the literature

- Detail aims of project and relate them to the literature review

- critically evaluate the various experimental approaches and why specific approaches have been chosen for the project

- outline the relevance of the proposed project to the research area

Literature Report

- Summative 4000 word (+/- 10%) Literature Review

- It should include a range of sources but must include primary sources (peer-reviewed journal articles).

- It should be well-structured with a good standard of scientific English and appropriately referenced.

- Figures and Tables are valuable

- NB: For those not doing DClinSci there will also be an Innovation Proposal (5 x A4 pages)-see Web site

Literature Report-marking

- Marked by Workplace Supervisor and Academic Supervisor (UoManchester) or Academic Supervisor (ManMet)

- Check dates on eprog for Deadline of submission and outcome

- Feedback and marking will be completed by a month after submission.

- Each section should be marked as **Pass** or **Fail** only.

- If the two markers cannot agree on the overall outcome, the submission will be sent to a third marker at the discretion of the Programme Lead (depending on whether the disagreement is around academic or clinical content).

- Where the written project has been "failed" the trainee can resubmit once. The examiners must provide detailed feedback.

Lay Presentations-how do we assess good speakers?

http://www.engagement.manchester.ac.uk/highlights/3_minute_thesis/index.html

Lay Presentation

- An **oral presentation** of the Research Project

- A key skill is the ability to present research ideas to a non-specialist audience

- the assessment will be carried out independent of the supervisory team
  - Programme Lead
  - Another Academic +/- External assessor
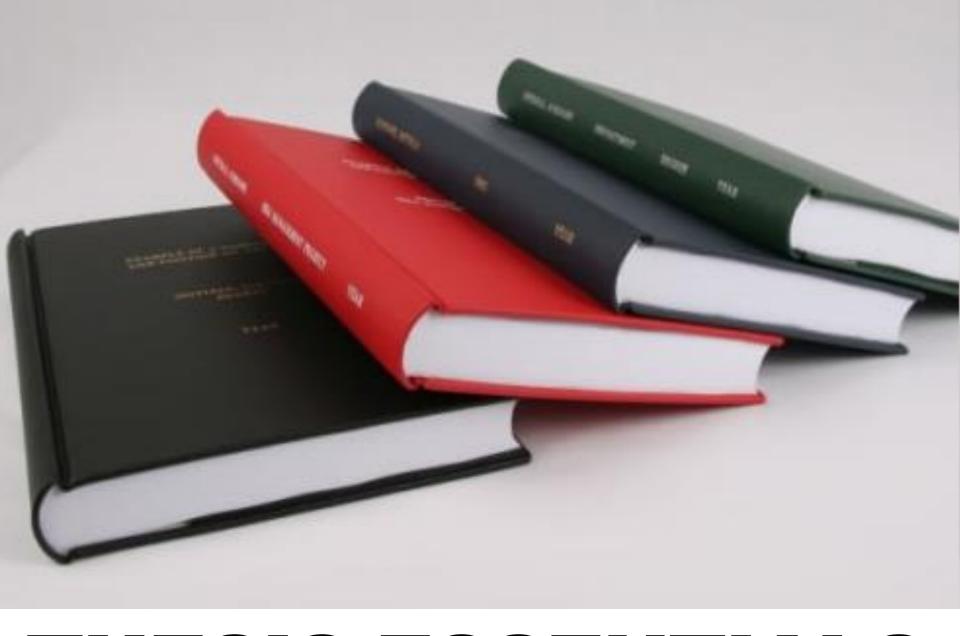 - Lay Person

Proforma for Assessment

Overall Quality & Clarity	YES	NO	Comments
Is the research clearly explained?			
Is it clear how/why this research could be of benefit in the healthcare sciences			
Does the candidate use clear understandable language and explain any scientific terms/acronyms			
Does the candidate demonstrate the values, attitudes and behaviours expected of a leader in clinical science?			

PowerPoint slides	Appropriate	Not appropriate
Comments:		

Proforma for Assessment

Delivery	Good	Poor
Body Language		
Eye Contact		
Audibility		
Confidence		

Final Result	Pass	Fail
Summary comments for feedback:		

THESIS ESSENTIALS

The Examination Process

- Six months to go-suggest external examiner by discussing at a supervisory meeting
- What is your role in reading the thesis?
- How do you set guidelines for giving feedback?
- Ensure care is taken to meet the University submission requirements
- Give advice on the examination process at viva
- Celebrate!!!!!

One of two possible formats may be used:

Format 1 – The Standard Thesis
http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.
aspx?DocID=7420

Format 2 – Journal Format
http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduat
e/code/submissionandexamination/

Electronic submission of PDF via eThesis submission portal required for
both formats
http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/using-the-
library/staff/research/services/ethesis/
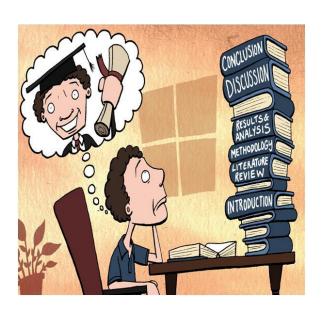**+ *2 paper copy prints of the PDF submission***

Journal Format	Traditional Format
Abstract	Abstract
Systematic Review / Literature Review	Introduction / Literature Review
Empirical Paper(s)	Methodology
Empirical Paper(s)	Results Chapter(s)
Critical Appraisal Paper	Discussion and Conclusion
References	References
Appendices	Appendices

Standard Thesis

20-40,000 words (must not exceed 50,000 words) PhD thesis 80,000 words maximum

Structure:
- Electronically generated cover page
- Title page + Submission statement
- List of contents, tables, figures etc.
- Abstract + (optional) Lay abstract
- Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
- **Brief statement for Examiners***

  - Introduction/Literature review
  - Aims & Objectives
  - Methodology
  - Results chapters (1 or more)
  - Discussion/conclusion & future work
  - References
  - General Appendices
  - Appendix with details of rest of Course
  - Appendix with Innovation Proposal
  - Published papers arising from the thesis

Journal Format Thesis

Expected length 20-40,000 words (PhD would be 80,000 words maximum

Structure:
- Electronically generated cover page
- Title page + Submission statement
- List of contents, tables, figures etc.
- Abstract + (optional) Lay abstract
- Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
- **Brief statement for Examiners***

- Rationale for submitting in journal format & description of thesis structure
- Context of the research & rationale and strategy for the research
- Systematic Review or Literature Review
- Methodology & critical analysis of the methods
- Empirical Results Paper(s)-Presentation of results in format suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journal
- Critical Appraisal Paper-Summary/conclusion drawing together the various outcomes of the work in a coherent whole and future directions
- References
- Appendices (to include Appendix with details of rest of Course and Appendix with Innovation Proposal

Empirical Results chapter

- This paper(s) should also be prepared in accordance with the guidelines of a specific journal

- **Word count:** in line with the target journal (if none stated 8,000 maximum)

- **Co-authors:** The contribution of co-authors must be clearly acknowledged

- **Reference list:** Apply the target journal's referencing style consistently. Include DOI numbers. Use Endnote.

- **Figures and Tables**: For your DClinSci thesis place these in the main text for reading ease but if your manuscript is to be submitted to the journal they should be placed after the reference list.

- **Footnotes:** Can be used to refer the reader to additional discussion points in the *critical reflections paper*

Critical Appraisal Paper

- The focus of this section should be a consideration of how your present project contributes to theory and clinical practice in the particular field.

- the critical appraisal paper should put the Systematic review and project in the wider context of research and clinical practice and link them to relevant theoretical underpinnings.

- *It is not expected that this paper would be submitted to a journal*

What to include as Critical Appraisal?

- Refer to and appraise the research process as a whole, making reference to what was not done and why it was not done, as well as to the work that was actually carried out.

- Strengths and weaknesses of the project (i.e. the work actually carried out rather than the methodology or line of enquiry as a whole)

- Advantages and disadvantages of the broad methodological approach used in the project and consideration of alternative methodologies that could have been utilised.

- Limitations of the line of enquiry as a whole

- Implications for theory and for clinical practice

- Suggestions for further research or implementation

Standard or Journal Format?

Journal format is not suitable for everyone

Things to consider:
1. Does the data lend itself to more than one paper? How many? Not proscribed…

(BUT - A SINGLE PAPER IS NOT USUALLY SUITABLE FOR JOURNAL FORMAT THESIS)

2. Conflict between producing multiple papers to fit Journal format or producing one much higher impact paper

3. Journal format theoretically makes it easier to get data to publication

4. May include published papers only on work done during project not before, draft papers, work in progress – but must tell a coherent "story"

5. It is expected that the student had the major role in any joint-authored paper included and that they have written the paper

Student and supervisors need to discuss this as early in the project as possible and revisit several times – don't leave the decision too late!

DClinSci - Statement for Examiners

We recommend inclusion of an Appendix within the thesis to show the context of the research project within the wider content of the whole DClinSci.

i.e. show the nature of the taught component
   Leadership & Management
   Section B/FRCPath
   Innovation proposal & any engagement with public

Examination process- Year 5

Notice of submission must be given 6 months before thesis submission

Notice of submission triggers nomination of examiners-usually chosen by Supervisors but this will require approval by the Programme Lead

Usual for Supervisors to check the external examiner is willing and understands the nature of the Professional Doctorate

Internal and External Examiners will be notified by the Exams Office

Internal Examiner usually agrees date of Viva with external examiner and trainee

Thesis submitted

Viva

The External Examiner

Criteria for Examiners
http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7444

An External Examiner must:

i.   have expertise in the area of work to be examined;

ii. be experienced in research, and have recently published, or have equivalent professional experience;

iii. Normally been an examiner for postgraduate research degree
     (or had experience of postgraduate research degree examination process)

-    external examiners examining for first time should have experience of
     supervising a research student and examining as internal examiner;

The External Examiner-continued

iv. hold a postgraduate research degree at the level he/she is examining, (or have equivalent professional experience)

v. hold/have held an appointment within the university system,

(although permissible to appoint an appropriate person from outside university sector;
e.g., a senior industrial scientist or professional practitioner who is aware of the standards required,

BUT this should be discussed with the Academic Director)

The Finale