

Proposal Guideline for Doctor of Philosophy Program in Management (International Program)

Rattanakosin International College of Creative Entrepreneurship – RICE

Of

Rajamangala University of Technology, Rattanakosin, Thailand

Introduction

Like other doctorate programs all over the world, Ph.D. Dissertation is the major part of your graduation requirement. The form of dissertation might vary depending on the program design and the requirement of the host countries of the destinations or particular universities. The format specified in the curriculum of Ph.D. Program in Management is One - Essay Format” which facilitates and accelerates the graduation process of the students. This “one-essay” format is designed to facilitate the students an opportunity to contribute to academia and communities of practice through extensive and high standard academic research. This guideline helps you understand the idea of “one-essay” model of doctoral thesis and its structure.

Structure of Ph.D. Dissertation

Components	Required Information
1. Cover Page	- Name of the university - Name of the college - Title of the thesis (umbrella topics) - Year of Enrollment - Full name of the students - Full name of the supervisors - Academic year in which the dissertation is presented
2. Abstract	- Brief description (no more than 300 words) of objectives, methodologies and the results of the research that synthesize the articles (browse RICE Website)
3. Keywords	- 4-5 keywords should be listed below the abstract

Components	Required Information
4. Table of Content	- Contents of the dissertation divided into Chapters with corresponding page numbers - The content of the dissertation must be divided into chapters and sections. Each section can be further divided into sub-sections. Chapters, sections and sub-sections must be enumerated into the following sequential fashion: 1,1.1,1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2, 1,2.1, etc. - List of Tables - List of Figures
5. Lists of Abbreviation and Glossary	- Lists of Abbreviations - Lists of Glossary
6. Chapter One	- Introduction (See detailed discussion below)
7. Chapter Two	- Literature Review (see detailed discussion below)
8. Chapter Three	- Methodology (see detailed discussion below)
9. References	- Complete list of works cited and referred to in the text (APA 7th Format)
10. Appendices	- Detailed information of the various aspects of the empirical research and how it is complied - Data Collection Instrument - Administrative documents that justify the ethical stances and transparency of the research such as letters to the gatekeepers - Materials and or methodology of the experiment - Weighting method - Tables with raw data - Transcription of audio material and/or video recordings

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter maps out the whole dissertation. By reading this chapter, readers and your dissertation committee should understand the structure and the contour of the whole thesis. It should clearly state the persisting problems in the context communities that need explanation and solutions. Such a problem guides the rest of your t dissertation in terms of research problems, objectives and limitations. The structure of Chapter One should be as follows;

Components	Description
1.1. Background of the Study	Brief description of the backgrounds of the situations that contextualizes your studies while stating symptoms and/or problems that need solution in the selected social phenomena. The specific information and problems should be backup with information from public sources with in-text and bibliographical citing at the end of the dissertation. There should also be a discussion of published articles in peer-reviewed academic journal in the fields conducted to solve similar problems as well
1.2. Significance of the Study	In this section, students are to justify the importance of their dissertation and the contribution of the findings to both theories and communities of practitioners Students may divide this section into two subsections; 1.2.1. Theoretical significance 1.2.2. Practical Significance
1.3. Statement of Research Questions	Here, students recapture the theoretical and practical significance of the study then state research questions. There are points that students should keep in mind when stating research questions; - RQs should be interrogative sentences starting with interrogative pronouns

	- The answer of RQs should solve problems stated in (1.1) - RQs will govern the rest of your dissertation in terms of theoretical frameworks, population (primary data), and instruments, as well as test of hypotheses
1.4. Statement of Research Objectives	Research objectives must correspond to research backgrounds and research questions. They should be stated in bullet point format starting with infinitive verbs
1.5. Outline of the Thesis	Again, this part is only required during your final defense. Here, you briefly describe the structure of each chapter of the thesis
1.6. Conclusion	Here, you write 1-2 paragraphs summarizing the essence of the whole Chapter One with bridging sentences to literature review (Chapter Two)

Chapter Two: Literature Review

Governed by research questions and objectives stated in Chapter One, candidates develop extensive literature reviews with both in-text and end-text citations. It is advisable that students use bibliographical programs for these citations. Literature review grounds the theoretical framework for the thesis, based on which theoretical model is developed, hypotheses are stated, how data collection instruments are developed, and how data are analyzed and discussed. It should be kept in mind that all of the aforementioned steps of your dissertation development is governed by literature reviews and literature reviews are governed by research questions and objectives.

Generally, a literature review for social science research has four components namely context(s) of the studies, parent disciplines, and immediate disciplines, and statement of theoretical model and concepts. Your Chapter Two should comprise the following components

Introduction	At the beginning of the Chapter, a brief recapturing the research questions stated in Chapter One. Then, candidates are to state what the contexts of the studies and parent disciplines are.
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	After completing the whole chapter, students might come back to add a brief description how this chapter would be structured.
2.1. Contexts of the Study	Remember that you develop the whole dissertation to solve problems stated in Chapter One. Such problems always take place in a context with specific conditions. Contexts can be geographical areas, professional contexts, or certain industry, or a combination of them. Specific conditions of your studies always influence how the problem occurs, their severities, available options for solutions, and so on. They must, therefore, be thoroughly discussed. However, you have to depict only relevant specificities and conditions that really influence the problems and their solutions. General information can be mentioned briefly. Remember that, you are conducting an academic work in the “scientific communities”, therefore, every information and claims of this part must be cited from credible sources. When reviewing the context of your studies, you should always link the discussed factors and specific conditions to the stated problems and research questions. Contexts of the studies can be divided into sub-sections with numbers such as 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and so on. At the end of this section, you should state what theories or parent disciplines are required to answer the research questions.
2.2. Parent Disciplines	Parent disciplines referred to theories candidates and their supervisors find necessary to explain the interested social phenomena, to solve the stated problems (in Chapter One), and answer the stated research questions. Candidates should demonstrate to the readers of their dissertation their thorough understanding of the theories by including as much as possible literatures in the field and profoundly discuss them by tackling component

	by components of the theories. Besides, candidates should discuss how these theories help solve the problems and answer the research questions, what their advantages as compared to other competing theories in solving similar problems are, what their possible flaws that should be taken into consideration. Remember to show readers and examiners that you have accessed to various sources of research papers in the field both international and local journals. Comparing and contrasting between them also make you look smarter. Although you should state when the disciplines emerge in the academic journals, you should, however, focus on recent papers published within the 5 years range. Every now and then, you should relate the parent disciplines to specific conditions of the studies' contexts and reflect how such disciplines must be adapted or interpreted within the lights of the contexts while relating back to the stated problems and research questions. Again, parent disciplines should be presented into sections and subsections with corresponding number. Each paragraph and sections should have bridging sentences. Remember that you want your readers to feel that they are reading one seamless story.
2.3. Immediate Disciplines	Immediate disciplines are actually the reflection of the parent disciplines within the context of the study. They usually state hypothetically how problems are understood and how research questions are answered. They also discuss variables and their respective operational definition, their relationships with other variables. By reading review on immediate disciplines, readers should be able to draw a theoretical model with hypotheses.

	Detailed and critical review of immediate disciplines also allow deeper discussion of the results in Chapters Four and Five as well. Usually, the quality of any research project depends very much on the quality of its literature review
2.4. Theoretical Model and Hypotheses Statement	In this part, you actually represent your immediate disciplines in a graphical format with all variables and their respective hypothetical relationships. Following the theoretical model, brief explanation of the model should be given. The last part of this section should be hypotheses statement (only for the quantitative part of the thesis), hypotheses should be stated. Remember that theses should be testable/falsifiable, conceptually clear, specific and brief, to the point, related to available techniques, related to a priori, consistent with your research questions and objectives, and comprehensive.
2.5. Conclusion	Again, the final part of this chapter should briefly recapture the essence of the chapter while bridging to the next chapter- methodology. This section should be 1-2 paragraph long.

Chapter Three: Methodology

Like literature review, Methodology meticulously explains how you will conduct your dissertation s to answer the stated questions and objectives (in Chapter One) by testing the model stated at the end of the literature review (Chapter Two). By reading this chapter, your examiners should clearly know how exactly you will test the stated models and hypotheses. Chapter Three has two objectives. The first objective is to let readers fully understand how empirical studies are conducted. The second objective is to justify the validity and reliability of the research and its findings.

First and foremost, you need to justify the paradigm of the research to be adopted in your study by showing the brief discussion of all available paradigms (at least three must be discussed: positivism, constructivism, and critical theory). Even though you place higher weight in discussing the chosen paradigm

you need to discuss all available paradigms in terms of ontology, epistemology and methodology. You should state why the chosen paradigm is most suitable in answering the research questions stated in Chapter One.

As the dissertation mode of Ph.D. Program in Management of RICE is “one-essay” thesis, you should mention what is its tentative name which might be altered in later stages. Then after, you have to discuss the research direction, research design, data collection process, data analysis. The final part of Chapter Three should discuss the ethical considerations adopted in your specific study. The structure of your Chapter Three should be as follows

Introduction	At the beginning of the Chapter, a brief recapturing the research questions stated in Chapter One and brief recapturing of theoretical framework in Chapter two should be briefly mentioned. After that, you should tell your readers how this chapter will be structured.
3.1. Overview and Justification of Research Paradigm	As you are going to graduate a Ph.D. degree, your thorough understanding of philosophical stance about your research needs to be demonstrated. Hence, you need to discuss all available research paradigms by touching the aspects of ontology, epistemology, and methodology. As you are going to choose one paradigm, you still have to discuss all available (at least three – positivism, constructivism, and critical theory) paradigms. For the unchosen paradigms, you should state why they are not appropriate for your studies and your research questions and objectives. Highest weight should be given to your chosen paradigm. Apart from discussing the three aspects of the paradigm, you should justify why it is appropriate for your stated research questions and objectives.
3.2. Research Method	Here, research method issue that you plan to do by touching the following issues; - The aim to answer which research questions and objectives - Research Design – exploratory, conclusive (descriptive or causal design)

	- Major Data Collection Method - Variables and their definitions and measurements. This part, you need to mention how other scholars define this particular variable. How many dimensions are there? How they relate to your interested other variables? How other scholars measure them? Then, you need to give an operational definition of your observed variables and how would you measure them (adopt, adapt from the work of other scholars or self-develop but ground from a priori of other scholars). Remember that, you must discuss all variables stated in your theoretical framework and hypotheses - Reliability and Validity issues of the scales or data collection instrument. You should discuss how you would like to ensure reliability and validity issues of your variables and their measurements. - Pilot study – Pilot study is highly recommended as it would allow you to adjust the data collection instruments to be more reliable and valid - Data Collection Administration - Target Population and their parameters – to ensure that you collect data from the sources that certainly allow you to answer the research questions. - Sampling Methods – clearly state how your samples will be recruited by referring to the sampling methods conventionally used in social science research. You should justify the choice of your method and mention the potential limitation.
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	- Sample size – if your finite number of your targeted population cannot be determined, then the calculation of sample size must be determined by referring to the conventional sample size of similar studies - Administration of your data collection method – state clearly which method will you use, why do you choose this method and how would you do to ensure highest possible response. - Data Analysis - How do you prepare your data after collection, how do you arrange the coding, and management of other statistical issues such as missing data, normal score distribution etc. - Statistical and Data Interpretation Method
3.5 Ethical Consideration	As a part of scientific community, you should state how your study abide to ethical considerations. Although there are several sets of ethical considerations for social science research, we would like to recommend Bouma (2000)’s principles - Dignity and Respect - Literature Review - Benefits and Risks - Voluntary and Informed Participation - Public and Informative Research
3.6 Conclusion	For this part of Chapter Three, you briefly recapture the essence of the whole Chapter by referring to each section and the essay.

References

Use APA 7th format to write references and citations.