

TOUR 410: Dissertation 2008

Outline

Preparation of the dissertation is primarily an educational exercise in research. The objective of TOUR 410 is to develop experience and demonstrate competence in all phases of tourism research by undertaking and presenting a dissertation based on primary research. Preparing the dissertation also provides an opportunity to examine a topic of personal interest in the field of tourism.

Skills

Preparing the dissertation will develop your ability to undertake independent tourism research by providing experience in:

- formulating a research question and developing an appropriate research design;
- collecting, analyzing and interpreting primary data;
- communicating the results of your research both orally and in writing.

Task

You are required to produce a dissertation that should be based on primary data sources and demonstrate the following:

- 1) the ability to formulate a clear problem statement and an appreciation of the academic context of the work and/or its practical implications;
- 2) an appropriate research design and appropriate research methods;
- 3) a critical appraisal of the data used;
- 4) accurate and effective analysis and presentation of the data collected;
- 5) clear and logical interpretation of the results obtained;
- 6) the ability to produce a well-written and structured report.

The dissertation should be 8-10,000 words long and follow the conventions outlined in the *Style Guide for Tourism Courses*. It should not incorporate work that has been or will be submitted for credit in any other course.

Assessment

The assessment consists of an oral presentation (20% of the final grade) and the written report (80% of the final grade).

- Formal oral presentations of the research project and findings (20 minutes plus 10 minutes of questions) will be given on **Monday 13 October** (time and venue to be advised).
- The dissertation is due by **9:30 am Monday 20 October**.

Details regarding the presentations will be provided at the progress meeting in September.

See Milestones overleaf

Milestones

The dissertation is likely to be your largest piece of academic work to date. In order to provide support for your projects, in addition to supervision, and to ensure that your dissertations progress well the following milestones have been developed.

7 July (Monday) from 9.00 to 11.00 (RHGO2)

A formal proposal (consisting of oral presentation of 5-10 minutes and a 2 page written proposal) will be presented by each student to members of the Tourism Group on Monday July 7. The proposal should emphasize task points 1 and 2 and outline clearly the nature of the problem being addressed as well as the methods to be used. To meet this deadline you will need to develop your proposal over the mid-year break. Contact appropriate staff to discuss your initial ideas. Following presentation of the proposals, students will be allocated a supervisor with whom they will be expected to maintain regular contact during the preparation of the dissertation.

1 August (Friday)

As most projects will need to be submitted to the Faculty Human Ethics Committee (HEC) for ethics approval you should aim for a formal submission of your HEC application by 1st August to ensure field work can be undertaken in a timely manner.

Mid August (date, time and venue to be advised)

A 10 minute oral report outlining (1) progress to date, (2) problems encountered and (3) work yet to be completed, will be given by each student at this progress session to be held during the week beginning 11 August. In particular, students need to comment on any refinement and/or modification to the topic, why this has come about and how this is affecting the subsequent research.

Late September (date, time and venue to be advised)

A second 10 minute oral progress report session will be held in the week beginning Monday 22 September. For this progress report particular emphasis should be given to outlining data collection, analysis procedures and the ways in which the data will be presented and interpreted. More detail about the formal dissertation presentation on 13 October will be provided at the end of this session.

13 October (Monday) time and venue to be advised

Formal oral presentations of the research project and key findings (20 minutes plus 10 minutes of questions) will be given by all students on Monday 13 October.

20 October (Monday) 9.30am

The dissertation is due for submission on Monday 20 October by 9.30am. However, you are of course welcome to submit it earlier.

Good time management is very important for a research project of this size!