

## **Dissertation Proposals and Supervision**

### **Draft dissertation proposal**

This is a 2 page document which forms the basis of assigning dissertation supervision. It should include the following:

- Topic
- Relevance to the programme the student is reading for
- 2-3 Research Questions
- Rough Bibliography, including the seminal works on the topic and the most recent works on the topic

### **Dissertation proposal.**

This document should be 10-12 pages in length (double-spaced) and comprise the following:

- A statement of the topic and its importance to the field of study;
- The aims and objectives of the dissertation;
- A statement of the thesis/argument;
- A critical summary of the theoretical approach to be used and the manner in which it helps to explain the topic;
- A point-form outline of the chapter headings and sub-sections of each chapter and estimated word count of each chapter;
- An explanation of the methodology that speaks to the point-form outline and explains:
  - what each chapter does;
  - how each chapter advances a part of the overall thesis;
  - how each chapter relates to the other chapters and the thesis as a whole.
- A statement of the linkage of the topic to one or more themes in the wider field of knowledge in the discipline which is being studied;
- A preliminary bibliography;
- Any anticipated difficulties with the argument or methodology.

### **Dissertation Supervision**

For September Politics students supervision of the Dissertation ends at the end of Term Three (Summer). This is because the Dissertation is an examination that tests a variety of skills, including independent research and writing. By that date, all candidates should have a firm grasp of the topic, the thesis (argument), the methodology to be used, and the sources that will be researched. No substantive supervision of the dissertation will be given after the end of term and staff will limit their advice to technical questions.