**MSc Dissertation Structure**

1. **Abstract** (<500)

* Why to conduct this research (3-4 sentences)
* How you did it (2-3 sentences)
* What are the key findings (4-5 sentences)
* Implications of your research (2-3 sentences)

1. **Introduction** (1500 – 2000)

* Why choose this research – identify research subjects
* What have / haven’t been done in the area (briefly) – knowledge gap
* Research aim and objectives
* Structure of the dissertation

1. **Literature review** (4000 – 5000)

* Identify the key concepts of your research
* What have / haven’t been done in the area (detailed)
* What other people’s researches agree / disagree
* Where is the knowledge gap

1. **Research methodology** (2000 – 3000)

* The nature of your research – scientific or ideology?
* Research approaches – quantitative or qualitative?
* Data collection methods – what are available? Which one did you choose and why?
* Your research design – sample selection criteria and sample size, with justification; survey / interview / case study design
* Research ethics consideration
* Details of your research process – when, where, how, whom

1. **Data analysis** (4000 – 5000)

* Present the data collected: processed summary for qualitative data; table / diagrams for quantitative data
* What does the data mean in the context of your research
* Link back to the existing literature to make sense of your data: why it is a problem? How does it agree / disagree with the existing literature? How to solve the problems identified?

1. **Conclusion** (1500 – 2000)

* Why you chose this research
* How you did it
* Your conclusions / recommendations
* Your contribution to knowledge
* Limitation of the research / Further research

1. **Reference**

* **60-120** references are expected, mainly from academic sources
* Only Harvard reference format
* Please note your references will be included in the word count!

1. **Appendices**
   * Please note that this is excluded from the word count of dissertation
   * Questionnaire
   * Interview structure / questions
   * Interview transcripts
   * Other relevant documents which will help your readers to understand your work