

20 February 2023

Document 064_23

Assessment Policy and Procedure of Dissertations - MQF Levels 6 and 7





		Version	History		
Title of Document		Assessment Policy and Procedure of Dissertations- MQF Levels 6 and 7			Doc_064_23
Access to Document	Internal Staff	Student & Academic Staff	Public		Policy and
(Minimum list of document users to be notified upon release of document update)		1	1	Category	Procedure
		Revisior	n History		
Version	Change Originator	Document Owner	Approver	Approval Date	Effective Date
1 st version Doc_064_v1	Quality Assurance Manager	Quality Assurance Manager	Director of Studies	16/04/2020	16/04/2020
	Details of Change	Not applicable			
	Change Originator	Document Owner	Approver	Approval Date	Effective Date
	Director for Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance	Director for Curriculum Development and Quality	The Principal	28 November 2022	04 November 2022
2 nd version Doc_064_23	Details of Change	Assurance *Code includes year. *Alignment with Doc_100_22 Assessment Policy and Procedure. *Clarification and further details on Section 3: Definitions. *Defining the Assessment Process. *Included other sections for further information as follows: - Section 4: Defining the Assessment Process; - Section 5: Dissertation Student Meeting with the Supervisor; - Section 5: Academic Language; - Section 6: Academic Language; - Section 7: Dissertation Structure: - Section 7: Dissertation Structure: - Section 9: Successful Completion of the Dissertation; - Section 10: Unsuccessful Completion of the Dissertation; - Section 11: Sanctions for non-submissions; - Section 12: Sanctions for Plagiarism and/or Collusion for Dissertation - Section 13: Grading and Classification; - Section 14: Student Responsibilities; - Section 15: Support to Students; - Section 16: Supervisor Responsibilities; - Section 17: The Internal Examiner Responsibilities; - Section 19: Administrative Responsibilities; - Section 19: Administrative Responsibilities; - Section 10: Conflict Resolution. Other amendments to align with related policies.			
	IDEA College Logo	New College logo was changed on 24/06/2024			

Instructions for Document Users
All IDEA Academy employees can access current, controlled and approved documents related to the Quality Management System via
the IDEA Academy's website link: https://ideaeducation.com/
Continuous Improvement
Procedures are meant to be 'living' documents that need to be applied, executed, and maintained. If the procedure does not reflect
the current, correct work practice, it needs to be updated. Please contact us on: +356 2145 6310
It is IMPORTANT to always make sure that the latest version of a policy document is consulted.



Contents

1.	Aim	Aim and Scope5				
2.	Acronyms					
3.	Definitions					
4.	Defining the Assessment Process for Dissertation/Project-Based Dissertation7					
4	.1 Introduction					
4.2 Stage 1: Assessment of the		Stage 1: Assessment of the Module Preliminary Research Proposal7				
4.3 Stage 2: Finalising the Prop		Stage 2: Finalising the Proposal before starting work on the dissertation				
4	4.4 Stage 3: Assessment of the Dissertation/Project-Based Dissertation					
4	.5	Stage 4: Viva Voce Examination9				
4	.6	Stage 5: Finalising9				
5.	. Dissertation Student Meetings with the Supervisor11					
6.	. Academic Language					
7.	Dis	sertation Structure				
8.	Ethical Research					
8	.1	General Information12				
8	.2	Intellectual honesty				
8	.3	Responsibility to the Wider Community13				
9.	Suc	cessful Completion of the Dissertation13				
10.	ι	Insuccessful Completion of the Dissertation14				
11.	S	anctions for non-submission				
12.	S	anctions for Plagiarism and/or Collusion for Dissertation15				
13.	3. Grading and Classification15					
14.	Student Responsibilities16					
15.	S	Support to Students				
16.	S	Supervisor Responsibilities				
17.	Т	The Internal Examiner Responsibilities19				
18.	E	External Examiner2				
19.	A	Administrative Responsibilities21				
20.	C	Conflict Resolution				
21.	S	Supporting Documents				



1. Aim and Scope

1.1 This document is built on IDEA Academy's Assessment Policy and should be read in conjunction with Doc_100_22 Assessment Policy and Procedure.

1.2 The document describes the Assessment Policy and Procedure for the component Dissertation of a Programme of Studies.

1.3 This document covers IDEA Academy MQF Level 6 and Level 7 study programmes which involve the writing of a dissertation as a compulsory element in the respective study programme.

1.4 For the purpose of this document the term 'Dissertations' includes 'Project-based Dissertations.

To support this document reference to related policies will be made. The final two (2) digits in a Document Code refer to year of development/review. In cases where a more recent review than the one indicated in this document exists, the reader is to refer to the most recent version.

2. Acronyms

BoS	Board of Studies
DTRB	Dissertations, Theses and Research Board
ECTS	European Credit Transfer System
FRP	Final Research Proposal
IREB	IDEA Academy Research Ethics Board
PRP	Preliminary Research Proposal
REAAF	Research Ethics Application Approval Form
	1



3. Definitions

Committees	This term refers to the 3 Committees branching from the Dissertations, Theses and Research Board.
Degree Ratification	An overview of the student's study journey and overall achievements to determine any moderation (if required) and establish the final marks / classification to be awarded.
Dissertation	Term used for the research work at Undergraduate and Masters level as part of a study programme.
Dissertation/Thesis and Research Proposal Document	The Form used to document proposal being submitted for research work.
External Examiner	 The responsibilities of the External Examiner will include the following: 1. Reviewing identified dissertations/theses in case of unresolved. discrepancy, before issuing of results (when required). 2. Blind reading and assessing theses as a second blind marker. 3. Sitting on the Viva Voce Board as an expert in the case of the Theses, and when required in case of Bachelor's and Master's. 4. Acting as a Moderator as requested.
Internal Examiner	The person responsible for the marking and scoring process of the dissertation/thesis as a first blind marker
Moderator	 An External Examiner is responsible for reviewing the programme operations, and the overall work and achievements of the students on a study programme. The Moderator supports: a) the overall operation of the marking and internal moderation process of the dissertations and/or theses. b) the Board of Studies at ratification stage.
Project-Based Dissertations	Term used for research equivalent and equipollent to a written dissertation, involving a practical undertaking.
Student/Researcher	The person responsible for the preparation, conduct and administration of a research project. In the case of student projects / thesis / dissertation, the researcher is the student, duly guided by an academic supervisor.
Supervisor	The person responsible for guiding the student to produce graduate level original scholarship in the prosed topic area.
Thesis	Term used for the research work of a study programme at Doctoral level.



4. Defining the Assessment Process for Dissertation/Project-Based Dissertation

4.1 Introduction

- a) The dissertation is an academic piece of work based on original research conducted by the student.
- b) The research conducted by the student may be a project-based dissertation which includes a practical undertaking.
- c) The Dissertation Process includes the 5 Stages described below.

4.2 Stage 1: Assessment of the Module Preliminary Research Proposal

- a) The Preliminary Research Proposal (PRP) proposal is usually assessed, graded, and completed by the Lecturer delivering the taught module – Research Methods - as part of the summative assessment of the \programme.
- b) The proposal at this stage is usually referred to as the Preliminary Research Proposal.

4.3 Stage 2: Finalising the Proposal before starting work on the dissertation

- a) In the final year of the study programme, before the student starts working on the dissertation, the Preliminary Research Proposal is reviewed by:
 - i. Respective Dissertation Committee; and
 - ii. Research Ethics Board...
 - ... who provide feedback and recommendations.
- b) The student under the guidance of the Supervisor amends the proposal following the recommendations provided by the Committee and Boards.
- c) The Final Proposal is endorsed by the Supervisor and submitted to the DTRB.
- d) DTRB forwards the FRPs to the respective Committees.
- e) The Final Proposal is not graded but is an essential part of the Research Process.
- f) The Committee takes the final decision on the Final Proposal as:
 - Approved; or
 - Minor Changes required; or
 - Failed Final Proposal



- g) The Dissertation Committee informs the DTRB of the outcome of the student's proposal.
 - i. In the case of 'minor changes required' the DTRB informs the student to make the required changes within a stipulated timeframe. If the necessary changes are not done or not done to the required standard, the students are not allowed to proceed with their dissertation and can re-submit their proposal the following year.
 - ii. Since this implies an extension of studies, additional fees may be charged in accordance with Doc_098_22 Extension payment fees guidelines.
 - h) Once the Final Proposal is endorsed by the DTRB, the student and supervisor are notified by the DTRB that research work on the dissertation may start, following Ethical Clearance from the IREB and other clearance that the students need to apply for and obtain from third parties as required.

4.4 Stage 3: Assessment of the Dissertation/Project-Based Dissertation

- a) The dissertation/project-based dissertation reflects the final research proposal approved by the Dissertation Committee and clearance from the Research Ethics Board, and also clearance from other third parties if applicable.
- b) The Dissertation/Project-Based Dissertation is assessed and graded by the Internal Examiner using the Academy's Assessment Rubric for Dissertation.
- c) The Internal Examiner forwards grades and feedback to the DTRB.
- d) The dissertation Supervisor submits a report outlining the process of the research journey, the student's commitment, and performance.
- e) In case of a significant discrepancy between examiner's mark and the supervisor report, both will be called in for a meeting with the DTRB chair or designate.
- f) In the case of an unresolved discrepancy in reporting and scoring, an external examiner will be involved in the Viva Voce (after having conducted blind marking of the dissertation in question).
- g) Students who have successfully passed the dissertation/project-based dissertation will be called by the DTRB to participate in the Viva Voce Examination.



4.5 Stage 4: Viva Voce Examination

- a) The Viva Voce (often referred to as Viva) is a formal oral examination, which forms part an integral part of the examination of a student's dissertation/project-based dissertation.
- b) Students who have successfully passed the dissertation/project-based dissertation will be called to participate in the Viva Voce by the DTRB.
- c) Students are usually asked to give a 15-20-minute presentation on their dissertation to the Viva Voce Board, and to answer any questions of the board.
- d) The Viva Voce carries 15% of the dissertation/project-based dissertation mark.
- e) The outcome of the Viva Voce (pass / fail) will be given to the students at the end of the Viva Voce.
- f) The Viva Voce Board decides on the outcome of the Dissertation/project-based dissertation as follows:
 - i. Pass with no amendments required; or
 - ii. Pass subject to amendments/corrections; or
 - iii. Fail. In cases when there is clear evidence of falsification of data or that the dissertation is not the student's own work.
- g) The Final Mark of the Dissertation/Project-based Dissertation is agreed upon by the Viva Voce Board – in consensus by all members, excluding the Secretary.
- h) The Viva Voce Board documents and forwards report to the DTRB on the outcome of the Viva Voce Examination and the overall mark of the Dissertation.
- i) In case of 'Fail', refer to Section 4.6 (b) below.

4.6 Stage 5: Finalising

- a) In the case of Viva Voce Examination leading to a 'Pass subject to amendments/corrections', the student forwards the updated/amended
 Dissertation/project-based Dissertation to the DTRB within the agreed timeframe.
- b) The Internal Examiner forwards approval of amendments of the dissertation/projectbased dissertation to the DTRB.
- c) In the case where the required amendments are not done or not done to the level expected, the qualification may not be awarded, and the student may be requested to take an extension to conclude the work. This may incur additional costs in accordance with Doc_098_22 Extension Payment Fees Guidelines



- d) In cases of 'Fail' on the Viva Voce the DTRB may establish the way forward for a student to address issues identified by the Viva Voce Board within a stipulated timeframe.
- e) The DTRB finalises documentation, and forwards results to the Registrar.
- f) The Registrar calls a BoS involving BoS members and the external examiner to go over the process of the marking and grading of the programme of studies including the dissertation/project-based dissertation to ratify the marks and establish classification of the qualification for each student.



5. Dissertation Student Meetings with the Supervisor

- a) Once the supervisor has been assigned to the student, it is the responsibility of the student to make the first contact with their supervisor.
- b) Students are entitled a maximum of 10 hours of meetings with their Dissertation Supervisor.
- c) Students are to ensure that they provide their Supervisor with updated work in a timely manner to receive constructive feedback.
- d) It is the responsibility of the supervisor:
 - i. The supervisor is to ensure that regular meetings are held with the student to ensure support and guidance throughout the research journey.
 - ii. It is advisable that supervisors keep a record of the meetings and the feedback given to the student in each meeting.
 - iii. In case of lack of student's commitment or limited progress, the supervisor is expected to notify the Director of Studies Support immediately.
- e) It is the responsibility of the student to keep a record of the meetings and the feedback received from the supervisor in each meeting.
- f) IDEA Academy FRM_DSM_114_22 Dissertation Supervision Record of Meetings Form is used to record meeting sessions. The form is duly filled by the supervisor and signed and dated by both the supervisor and the student. It must be handed in to IDEA Academy by the student upon submission of the dissertation.

6. Academic Language

6.1 Dissertations submitted to IDEA Academy should be written and presented in accordance with academic discourse and rigour befitting of a qualification conferred at higher education level.

6.2 The language of the dissertation is usually in English. The use of other languages within the dissertation/project-based dissertation may be considered by the DTRB depending on the subject matter and context of the dissertation.

6.3 Refer to Doc_059_22 Student Dissertation Manual for details on:

- a) Style and Presentation;
- b) Referencing, Citations and Bibliography Lists;
- c) Footnotes;
- d) Appendices and Supplementary Material;
- e) Using Plagiarism Software.



7. Dissertation Structure

The key components of the dissertation usually include the following:

- 1. Title page
- 2. Abstract page
- 3. Dedication
- 4. Acknowledgments
- 5. Declaration of Authenticity
- 6. Table of Contents
- 7. List of Tables and Figures
- 8. Glossary/List of Abbreviations
- 9. Introduction
- 10. Literature Review
- 11. Research Methodology
- 12. Findings
- 13. Analysis
- 14. Conclusions and Recommendations
- 15. References
- 16. Bibliography
- 17. Appendices (if applicable)

8. Ethical Research

8.1 General Information

All research at IDEA Academy shall be conducted ethically and responsible.

Refer to the following documents:

- Doc_129_23 Research Ethics Policy and Procedure
- FRM_063_23 Dissertation Research Proposal Form
- FRM_132_23 Project-Based Dissertation Research Proposal Form
- FRM_139_23 Research Ethics Application Approval Form
- FRM_139_23 Research Ethics Application Approval Form



8.2 Intellectual honesty

- 8.2.1 Research practices at IDEA Academy are concerned with respect for the truth and for persons, during the whole process of research in acquiring, analysing, interpreting and conveying ideas and new knowledge.
- 8.2.2 Students are expected to achieve good scholarly standards and do so by adhering to professional ethical conduct and practices.
- 8.2.3 Students whose behaviour shows intellectual dishonesty will be reported immediately.
- 8.2.4 Intellectual dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:
 - a) Using and reporting information falsely;
 - b) Not crediting other person's work;
 - c) Citing and referencing material incorrectly;
 - d) Not acknowledging other person's contributions to the research;
 - e) Not contributing equitably to the research project when working with others.

8.3 Responsibility to the Wider Community

- 8.3.1 All those engaged in research at IDEA Academy faculty members, staff, students are responsible to the wider community of researchers and thus shall maintain high standards in research which are not misleading in presentation of data, interpretation, discussion or recommendation.
- 8.3.2 The student shall adhere with all ethical aspects avoiding bringing the research into dispute which will impact negatively on the research community.
- 8.3.3 Some aspects which will bring research into dispute include the following:
 - a) Distorting and/or falsifying evidence or findings;
 - b) Research work which is perceived to bear conflict of interest;
 - c) Student's lack of competence in the execution of research work;
 - d) 'Sensationalising' findings, sacrificing intellectual honesty;
 - e) Criticising other researchers in an unprofessional manner;
 - f) Using work of other researchers without the consent of the persons concerned;
 - g) Using research with fraudulent or illegal scope.

9. Successful Completion of the Dissertation

9.1 In general IDEA Academy's minimum pass mark for a Dissertation is 50%. In case of variance in the pass mark, the student would be advised upon commencement of the programme.

9.2 Once a student obtains a minimum of 50% mark (or otherwise indicated pass mark), s/he is called for a Viva Voce Examination.

9.3 The final mark of the dissertation is determined by the Viva Voce Board and endorsed/followedup by the DRTB (refer to Section 4.6).



10. Unsuccessful Completion of the Dissertation

10.1 Students failing at the 3rd stage of the dissertation/project-based dissertation will have a chance for a second attempt to re-submit the dissertation only once, with the final grade capped to a pass mark. Refer to Section 4.4 – Stage 3.

10.2 The resubmission includes dissertation proposal re-submission and a resubmission of a new dissertation with 1-year time after receiving the failing results.

10.3 A penalty charge may be applicable in a re-submission of a failed dissertation in accordance with Doc 098_22 Extension Payment Fees Guidelines.

10.4 If during the viva voce there is clear evidence of falsification of data or that the dissertation is not the student's own work, the student will fail the dissertation. The DTRB will then decide on the way forward on a case-by-case basis.

10.5 Students failing the second attempt for the dissertation, will not qualify to achieve the full Bachelor/Masters qualification. However, they will be considered for eligibility for an Undergraduate Diploma in the case of the Bachelor programmes and for a Postgraduate Diploma in the case of a Masters programme.

10.6 Students reading for a BSc Top-up programme, failing the second attempt for the dissertation do not qualify for an Undergraduate Diploma qualification as there will not be sufficient ECTSs to award the qualification.

11. Sanctions for non-submission

Failure to submit within the deadline without official justification:

11.1 In the case of failure to submit the dissertation, where the student does not have any valid extenuating circumstances, the student shall have the opportunity to resubmit the dissertation only once, with the final grade capped to a pass mark.

11.2 A penalty charge may be applicable in case of an extension for a submission of dissertation in accordance with *Doc 098_22 Extension Payment Fees Guidelines*.



12. Sanctions for Plagiarism and/or Collusion for Dissertation

- Refer to Doc_017_22 Recognising and Avoiding Plagiarism Policy and Procedure.
- Failure to submit original, authentic work (plagiarism or collusion) will lead to the sanctions below:
- 12.1 In cases of plagiarism level amounting to 16-30% after filtering:

A substantial reduction in marks will be considered and the student will require minor/major changes depending on the level of plagiarism.

12.2 In cases of plagiarism exceeding 30% after filtering:

The Dissertations/Theses will automatically fail the first submission and will be directly referred for resubmission following major changes. In such cases, once the resubmission is marked, the score will be capped to a pass.

12.3 A penalty charge may be applicable in a re-submission of a failed dissertation in accordance with Doc 098_22 Extension Payment Fees Guidelines.

13. Grading and Classification

- a) The Dissertation is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 against IDEA Academy's Assessment Rubric.
- b) The Dissertation is given a Classification as per study programme specifications:
 Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail.
- c) The overall total mark achieved in a Study Programme is worked out by summing a stipulated percentage of all the weighted marks obtained for the taught component and a stipulated percentage of the weighted marks of the dissertation component as per Programme Specification. Percentage marks are added to make the final mark which determines the classification of the qualification.
- d) The final mark and classification are issued by the Registrar following the Degree Ratification by the BoS.



14. Student Responsibilities

- a) The student is expected to engage in active preparation for the research study from the onset of the dissertation process.
- b) Students are responsible for:
 - i. Choosing a topic for approval;
 - ii. Completing the PRP, FRP and Ethics Approval Form and submitting to the DTRB following the indicated timeframes and submission deadlines.
 - iii. Ensuring clearance from the Research Ethics Board and other third parties if applicable.
 - iv. Submitting proofread drafts of materials to the Supervisor and eventually to the Chair of the Dissertation Board;
 - v. Preparing adequately for meetings with the Supervisor;
 - vi. Thoroughly engage with all policies and procedures, regulations and guidelines.
 - vii. Adhering to the Ethical Procedures.
 - viii. Communicating on a regular basis with the Supervisor via any communication modality, as agreed upon.
 - ix. Conferring with the Supervisor to develop a timeline for draft submission of the different components of the dissertation.
 - x. Together with the Supervisor, ensure that set deadlines are observed to make sure that they are working at a reasonable pace.
- c) Students should expect to make multiple revisions to their draft throughout the entire process. As the research project is the student's responsibility, s/he is expected to submit work regularly for the supervisor to give ongoing feedback as the research journey progresses.
- d) In cases where during the work of the dissertation, there are deviations from the approved proposal (FRP and REAAF), the student and the supervisor are required to request the approval of the DTRB.

Refer to: FRM_146_23 Request for Amendment of an Approved Research Project Form

 As a general rule, if the DTRB determines that the requested change requires major amendments and needs a fresh ethical review, the DTRB rejects the request for change. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



- e) It is the responsibility of the student to keep a record of the meetings and the feedback received from the supervisor in each meeting.
- f) The students are expected to ensure that the work submitted is checked and proofread to meet the required standards as established by the quality criteria of IDEA Academy in reflection of the MFHEA level descriptors.
- g) The student is responsible for the submission of the final electronic and hard copy of the dissertation as has been approved by the Viva Voce Board.
- h) In case of pass with changes requested by the viva voce board, the student is responsible for the submission of the final electronic and hard copy of the dissertation as has been approved by the internal examiner following amendments.
- i) The student is expected to maintain a respectful and professional attitude at all times.

15. Support to Students

15.1 Support to students during the process of dissertation is primarily provided by the assigned Supervisor.

15.2 Additional support may be acquired by reading through the policy documents, guidelines and manual related to the Dissertation.

15.3 IDEA Academy Support Services offers its general support via: support@ideamalta.com



16. Supervisor Responsibilities

- a) The Supervisor is responsible for supporting and guiding the student to produce graduate level, original scholarship in the proposed topic area.
- b) The Supervisor is appointed by the Dissertations, Theses and Research Board.
- c) The responsibility of the Supervisor typically involves:
 - i. Meeting with the student to develop and enhance the preliminary research proposal.
 - ii. Guiding the student to finalise the written proposal following the recommendations of the Committee.
 - iii. Assisting the student in revising and developing the Research Ethical Form and any other forms to be submitted to the Research Ethical Board and other third parties as applicable.
 - iv. Guiding the student to set a realistic timeline for completion of the dissertation, setting expectations for draft submissions to allow for formative feedback.
 - v. Guiding the student in formulating ideas and hypothesis where applicable.
 - vi. Guiding the student in the selection of research methods / procedures for data collection and analysis.
 - vii. Advising the student on primary and secondary methods proposed.
- d) The Supervisor shall:
 - i. Support the student with advice on how to follow ethical procedures throughout the course of the research study.
 - ii. Ensure that regular meetings are held with the student to ensure support and guidance throughout the research journey.
 - iii. Read the work of the student in progress and suggest revisions for improvement, conferring with the student in a pre-established scheduled timeframe.
 - iv. In cases where during the work of the dissertation, there are deviations from the approved proposal (FRP and REAAF), the student and the supervisor are required to request the approval of the DTRB.

Refer to: FRM_146_23 Request for Amendment of an Approved Research Project Form

- v. Provide feedback to the student on all aspects of the written documents including but not limited to:
 - Accuracy and clarity in writing;
 - Organisation of work;
 - Thoroughness of studies presented;
 - Quality of the methodology proposed;
 - Appropriateness of statistics



- Formatting; and
- Referencing
- vi. It is advisable that supervisors keep a record of the meetings and the feedback given to the student in each meeting.
- vii. Notify the Director of Studies Support immediately in case of lack of student's commitment or limited progress.
- viii. Endorse both the preliminary and final proposals, and the final draft of the dissertation/project-based dissertation before they is forwarded to the Dissertation Board.
- ix. Submits a report outlining the process of the research journey, the student's commitment, and performance.
- x. Help prepare the student for the viva voce.
- xi. Attend meeting/s with the DTRB and the external examiner when required.
- xii. Form part and participate in the Viva Voce Board.
- e) The role of the supervisor does not include:
 - Proofreading the final dissertation;
 - Grading the final dissertation;
 - Checking for plagiarism.
- f) The supervisor and student must agree on the date and location of their first meeting and what means of communication will be used throughout the dissertation process, for example, face-to-face, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, email, and any other mode deemed fit.
- g) IDEA Academy FRM_DSM_114_22 Dissertation Supervision Record of Meetings Form is used to record meeting sessions. The form is duly filled by the student/supervisor and signed and dated by both the supervisor and the student. It must be handed in to DTRB or designate by the student upon submission of the dissertation.
- h) The Supervisor is expected to maintain a respectful and professional attitude at all times.

17. The Internal Examiner Responsibilities

a) The Internal Examiner is responsible for reading, assessing and grading the dissertation of the student/researcher line with the IDEA Academy Dissertation Rubric.



- b) The Examiner is appointed by the DTRB.
- c) The Internal Examiner shall:
 - i. Read and assess the student's dissertation, as to whether the student's research work and knowledge meet the standard and level expected according to the IDEA Academy's criteria for the qualification.
 - ii. Grade the student's dissertation according to the Academy's Assessment Rubric for Dissertation.
 - iii. Compile an assessment report on the official Assessment Form for Dissertation and forward to the DTRB.
 - iv. Form part of and participate in the Viva Voce Board.
 - v. Prepare questions to pose to students for further clarification during the viva voce examination, to provide a fair opportunity for students to defend their work.
 - vi. Ensure that the Viva Voce Board is aware of any extenuating circumstances which may have a bearing on the student's case.
- d) The Internal Examiner is responsible for checking corrections have been carried out following recommendations by him/herself and/or Viva Voce Board.

18. External Examiner

The responsibilities of the External Examiner shall include the following:

1. Reviewing identified dissertations/project-based dissertations in case of unresolved discrepancy between internal examiner and supervisor report, before issuing of results.

- 2. Sitting on the Viva Voce Board as an expert when required.
- 4. Acting as a Moderator at ratification stage as requested.



19. Administrative Responsibilities

- a) The DTRB on behalf of the Director of Research is responsible for the functions and operations pertaining to Dissertations from Preliminary Proposal to Publication of Dissertations.
- b) The Quality Assurance Team is responsible for the monitoring and auditing of this procedure according to the internal audit plan.
- c) Director of Quality and Curriculum is responsible for the maintenance and reviewing of this procedure for improvement.

20. Conflict Resolution

- a) Conflicts occasionally arise between students and their dissertation/project-based dissertations supervisors and the Boards.
- b) Sources of conflict may include but are not limited to:
 - i. Disagreement about a timeline for completing the project:
 - ii. Disagreement about the direction of the study or the interpretation of the results; and
 - iii. Disagreement about the content, style, and editing of the dissertation.
- c) If a conflict is disrupting the progress of the dissertation, the student should follow the procedures below:
 - i. The student must first make a documented attempt to resolve the issue with the Supervisor or Boards who are involved in the conflict.
 - ii. If unable to resolve the conflict, the student may follow up with the Support Team at IDEA Academy by filing an appeal, using the official Appeals Form.



21. Supporting Documents

- Doc_008_22 Grievance policy and procedure
- Doc_009_22 Student Disciplinary Procedure
- Doc_013_22 IDEA Academy Ethos
- Doc_017_22 Recognising and Avoiding Plagiarism Policy and Procedure
- Doc_059_23 Student Dissertation Manual
- Doc_074_23 Viva Voce Guidelines
- Doc_100_22 Assessment Policy and Procedure
- Doc_127_23 Board and Committees for Dissertations, Theses and Research Policy and Procedure
- Doc_129_23 Research Ethics Policy and Procedure
- FRM_063_23 Dissertation Research Proposal Form
- FRM_068_22 The Assessment-Examination Appeal Form
- FRM_132_23 Project-Based Dissertation Research Proposal Form
- FRM_139_23 Research Ethics Application Approval Form
- FRM_146_23 Request for Amendment of an Approved Research Project Form
- FRM_147 L6 Dissertation and Viva Voce Assessment Form
- RBC_D6_148 Level 6 Dissertation Rubric
- FRM_149 L7 Dissertation and Viva Voce Assessment Form
- RBC_D7_072 Level 7 Dissertation Rubric
- RBC_VV6,7_150_23 Viva Voce Assessment Rubric Level 6 and Level 7



IDEA Academy Limited

The Business Centre, 1, Triq Nikol, Mosta MST 1870

Tel: +356 2145 6310

https://ideaeducation.com.mt/ I www.ideamalta.com

VAT Reg. No: MT 2498 4422 | Co. Reg. No.: C84813 | MFHEA Licence No.: 2014-FHI-015

