

Distance learning dissertation

All MSc students are required to write a 10,000 to 15,000 word dissertation. This contributes one-third (60 credits) of the overall assessment for the programme.

The dissertation is an opportunity to apply the content of the modules studied to a topic of interest to the student. It may address an issue of theoretical or practical importance and must be capable of being supervised by an [IDD academic staff member \(/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/staff/index.aspx\)](#). Students may relate the topic to their own work and / or their own country, but this is not compulsory. Most important is that the topic chosen is practicable, in the sense that there are adequate sources of reliable information available to the student.

Preparation for the dissertation begins on successful completion of the six taught modules. An online two week Research Methods Module runs once a year to help with this. The student is then encouraged to produce a dissertation proposal and then a dissertation supervisor is allocated. Contact with the supervisor will normally be by email or skype. If students either reside in the UK or are visiting, they can take the opportunity to visit their supervisor (by prior appointment).