

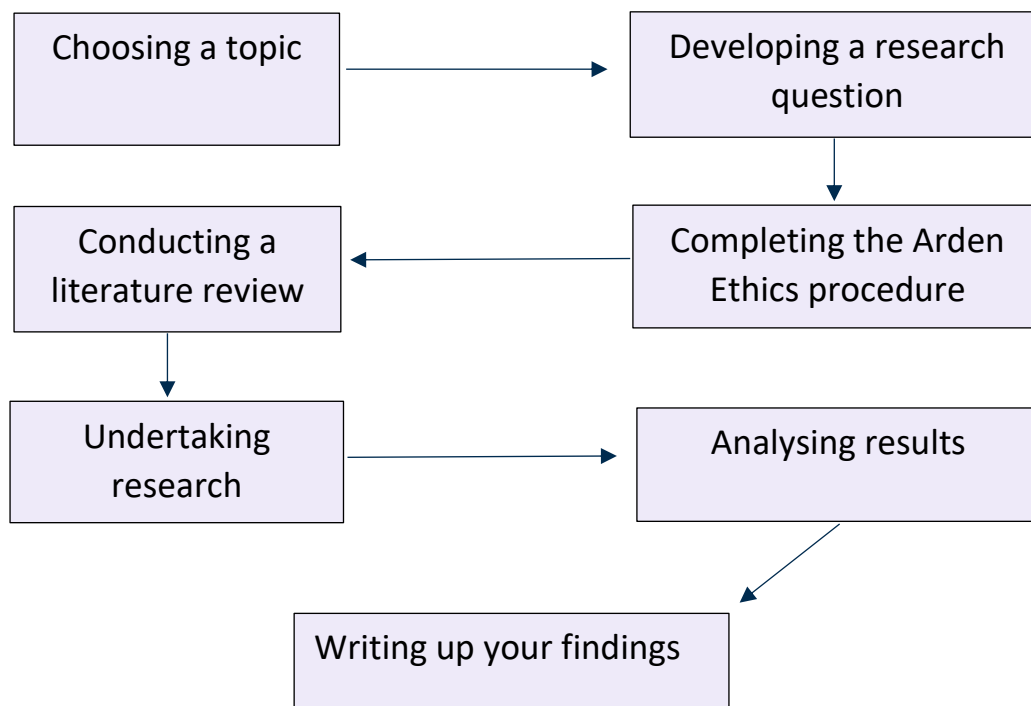


What is a dissertation?

What is expected in a research dissertation?

- A project that focuses on a specific problem or issue
- Relevant literature relating to the problem or issue
- A well-reasoned research design
- An analytical and critical approach to the literature and topic
- Good levels of scholarly standards throughout
- Use of sound arguments with valid and reliable evidence.

Stages in the dissertation process



Your dissertation might:

- Replicate an existing study in a different setting
- Explore an under-researched area
- Extend a previous study
- Develop or test out a methodology or method
- Address a research question in isolation, or within a wider programme of work
- Apply a theoretical idea to a real- world problem

Generating ideas

Step 1: Courses/ readings

Review your course readings, particularly the suggested readings, for ideas.

Step 2: Library

Search the online library catalogue for recent introductory books and, if appropriate, more specialized works related to your field.

Step 3: Past essays

Think about essays you have written for past modules or academic lectures and programs you have attended. What most interested you? What would you like to know more about?

- Keep a journal in which you can write down any passing ideas.
- Pay attention to any topics that spark an interest in class.
- Listen to see if your lecturer alludes to any exciting new developments or debates within your field.
- Read widely and keep up to date with research in your field.

Browse our extra dissertation resources on the Learning Success Hub website by following this link ([Dissertation Research | Arden Learning Success Hub](#)) or scanning the QR code below.

