

## Course: 01

### — The Dissertation

#### **Definitions:**

We consider here the dissertation as a general type of applied research report and as the first step taken by the new and future researcher. The dissertation represents one of the first steps in so-called scientific works. We can wonder what exactly is its nature, role, scope...

„ It is not a story because we must demonstrate something, prove, argue, analyze, propose, recommend...

„ This It is not a report in the sense of reporting, because it supposes an effort of investigation and understanding behind the appearance of the observed facts. “This is not a description because, at best, we would only be doing superficial, journalistic work. In a dissertation, it is not a question of describing for the sake of describing, but of describing in order to move on to the bulk of the work which consists of analyzing, measuring, comparing, evaluating, interpreting...

„ It is not a thesis either because a thesis is an additional and original contribution to scientific knowledge in a particular discipline. This goes far beyond the pretensions of a dissertation or even, often, of any applied research. If it is not telling, reporting, describing, or writing a thesis, then what is a dissertation?

According to French language dictionaries, the dissertation is a scientific or literary “dissertation”. We can retain two essential terms in this definition: dissertation and scientific. Dissertation implies, as a literary genre:

\*to treat a specific subject,

\*to speak about it with knowledge of the facts (having a certain prior knowledge on the subject),

\*to apply knowledge to develop the subject treated and to emit original, personal, more “advanced” ideas...

Scientific, for its part, implies (still in the classic sense):

\* knowledge of scientific rules and standards,

\* application of these standards and rules to the subject treated,

\* rigor and accuracy in treatment,

\*evidence and demonstration of what is asserted or advanced... In short, we would say that the dissertation, while being a minor genre, is no less an integral part of the research work . It is, broadly speaking, an application of one or more fields of knowledge (for example, sociological science) to an aspect of reality (specific theme of the dissertation) to understand its mechanisms, characteristics, dysfunctions, difficulty... and suggest through analysis and demonstration one or more possibilities for improvement, correction, better use... depending on the nature of the subject treated.

### **The final dissertation**

A final dissertation is written at the end of higher education to assess the ability to reflect on an issue raised by a subject. The student must demonstrate mastery of the subject and knowledge.

### **The internship dissertation**

An internship dissertation is developed following an internship in a company and generally at the end of a university year. It highlights the student's activities during their internship, but it is not a simple internship report, because it demonstrates the student's analytical capacity.

## **The master's thesis**

A master's thesis is written at the end of a master's level university course (Bac +5). It is similar to a research paper. Analytical skills and critical thinking are assessed. Formulating the problem is the basis for developing research questions and it is one of the most important steps. Developing a coherent thesis plan is also the key to a successful master's thesis, as well as the theoretical part and data collection.

## **A university dissertation**

The university dissertation amounts to doing research. It is a stylistic exercise which consists of demonstrating the student's ability to provide elements of response using a scientific approach.

## **The license thesis**

A license thesis highlights the student's ability to make their personal contribution to resolving a problem and contributing their knowledge. The elements judged are the editorial quality of the license thesis, the content and the form.

### **1. Presentation of the research dissertation (see standard model)**

The dissertation must include the following different elements

#### **1) A cover on which must appear:**

- \*Rectorate and the establishment: FSEG Nabeul –
- \* the training followed (e.g.: Master of research in business economics);
- \* the title of the dissertation

\* the last name, first name of the student;

\*the name of the educational supervisor

\*the current academic year; Please note the choice of the title of the dissertation is very important, it must have the following qualities:

\* clarity: avoid ambiguity

\* precision: avoid overly general formulations

\* accuracy: the title must correspond to the content of the dissertation

**2) the page of guard** A repeat of the cover

**3) The special mention:** In university institutions,

**4) A page for the dedication (optional)**

It is a mention of a personal nature but it must be dark

**5) A page for the thanks**

It is customary to thank the establishment which hosted your internship.

Other people can also be thanked by name if necessary. **6) A summary**

On one page it lists the main parts of the plan without page numbering (this will be included in the table of contents at the end of the report). References to the appendices, bibliography, index, etc. are not included either. Only the plan is presented here.

**7) A list of abbreviations**

If you use abbreviations, you must list them at the beginning of the work.

**8) An introduction**

In this introduction you must explain the choice of subject. You must then bring up the problem and justify your choice, show its interest and finally justify and announce your plan. The introduction generally includes the following elements:

- \* Justification for the choice of the subject
- \* The importance of the subject
- \* The topicality of the subject
- \* The different aspects of the subject
- \* The definition of terms and concepts (possibly)
- \* The problem (the objectives and hypotheses)
- \* The methodology adopted
- \* Justification and announcement of the plan

## **9) The body of the dissertation**

You must write the body of your dissertation with an apparent plan. Be sure to use short, explicit titles for your games. Be rigorous in this writing. We advise you to have your dissertation reread by an outside person who will often point out points that the editor is no longer able to see.

## **10) Footnotes**

All descriptions or findings based on data (statistics, opinions, studies) must be followed by a reference to footnotes (and not reference notes placed at the end of a chapter or work) which mention the sources of this data (which allows verification if necessary).

- Form: Times New Roman 10 in italics and Numbering: continues in the document or starts again at number 1 on each page)

- Presentation: there are at least two scenarios

### **Explanatory Notes:**

These are your additional explanation of a description or finding.

\* **Bibliographic reference notes:** you present them according to the same rule of the Bibliography described below, except that you must indicate the page numbers of the work from which you took the data (statistics or opinions of the author) .

**11) A conclusion:** knowing how to conclude Generally speaking, a conclusion must be both a synthesis of key ideas in response to the proposed problem, and an opening onto other prospective research. Depending on the case, the conclusion must also recall the objectives, the operational results obtained and their implications for the company as well as possible extensions of the work carried out.

A conclusion generally includes:

- \* Reminder of the problem, the objectives and the working methodology
- \* The main results
- \* The conceptual and managerial implications
- \* The limits
- \* The possible extensions of the dissertation and the research perspectives

### **12) A bibliography**

The bibliography must be properly signed and must comply with the standards explained previously. The development of the bibliography is important. It constitutes part of the scientific exercise because its elements serve as a reference to confirm or refute ideas or facts, or allow the work to be placed in a broader spatial or chronological context; Additionally, the reader may need to track down the specific sources that were used by the author.

**\*In the text:** Any bibliographical reference is only mentioned in the text, in a parenthesis, then developed in the general bibliography at the end of the dissertation. In the text we present as follows: if it is an author: NAME of the author in capital letters, year of publication; if there are two authors: both names, year of publication; if there are more than two authors: the name of the first author then et al., year of publication Example: (Di Méo, 2003) or (Béguin and Pumain, 1994)

### **13) Indexes, glossary and lexicon**

After the bibliography and before the appendices you can introduce:

\* **Indexes:** list of words, subjects and names with indication of the page. You can add an index of authors.

\*The glossary: alphabetical list of technical terms (in italics in the text of the dissertation) with definition.

\* **The glossary:** alphabetical list of terms in foreign languages (in italics in the text).

### **14) Appendices**

It is possible to insert in the annexes the equations and results of the model, tables, legal texts, printed matter, the texts of interviews with members of the host organization, the survey, etc. As in any academic report, the appendices may contain many other elements that the author considers necessary to produce

to support his analysis. The annexes must obviously also be paginated, and must be the subject of a “table of annexes”. Appendices are often useful to complete the dissertation. They must be numbered and listed in order to be able to refer to them in the body of the text. Only useful and relevant documents should be attached. No need to attach easily accessible documents.

### **15) The list of figures and tables**

It is always necessary to number and indicate the source of the tables and figures

### **16) The table of contents**

This includes the entire plan with all its subdivisions with the numbering of the pages for allow the reader to find a title in the development.

The following numbering can be adopted: Part, chapter, section, I, A, 1, a etc. Chapter 1, 1.1..... 1.1.1..... chapter 2, 2.1., 2.1.1, 2.1.2 etc 17) The fourth cover Also hardback, it includes the summary of the work and the key words in French, English and Arabic. The choice of keywords is important because they will allow your work to be indexed in databases.