

Module Title:	Dissertation Module
Module Code:	720 DISS
Level:	7
Credit rating:	60 credits
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 600 hours
Contact Hours:	5
Academic Responsibility:	Thomas Herbst OFM, DPhil (Franciscan Studies Pathway) Séamus Mulholland OFM, PhD

Module Aims:

The dissertation is a piece of research undertaken under the guidance of a tutor. The student deepens their understanding of how to undertake research by framing a question in the field of Theology, which is submitted for approval, and answering the question within an allotted word-count. In the Franciscan Studies Pathway the question will relate to an aspect of Franciscan Studies. The student works with a tutor who is cognisant of the field of research the student is undertaking and who guides the student in the approach to research, and time and resource management.

Learning outcomes:

The research and writing of a dissertation enables the student to:

1. demonstrate a critical understanding, competence and awareness of current research in an area of biblical and theological studies, with an ability critically to evaluate the research of others and pursue their own ideas and insights in academic research
2. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the techniques of research in their chosen area of Christian Theology together with an ability to learn and apply new research techniques including, typically, the ability to read and use primary texts both critically and empathetically
3. deal with a complex issue in the study of Theology both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, recognise the limits of such judgements, and communicate their methods and conclusions clearly in written form and verbally in discussion with the tutor;
4. direct their own research and plan their timetable so as to achieve a psychologically and spiritually healthy balance, integrating their work with other aspects of their life
5. demonstrate an ability to use initiative and creativity in approaching questions, the answers to which are not straightforward,
6. demonstrate an ability to continue to learn independently and so engage in continuing professional development.

Within the Franciscan Studies pathway:

Research and the application of research techniques will be in an area related to Franciscan Studies.

Assessment

Students will be assessed by a dissertation of 15,000 – 18,000 words.

Illustrative Bibliography

Allison B. and P. Race. *The Student's Guide to Preparing Dissertations and Theses*. 2nd edition. London & New York: RoutledgeFalmer, 2004.

Bailey S. *Academic Writing. A Handbook for International Students*. 2nd Edition. London & New York: Routledge, 2006.

Clegg B. *Studying Using the Web. The Student's Guide to Using the Ultimate Information Resource*. London & New York: Routledge, 2006.