



SHORT COURSE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

ACADEMIC WRITING

AIM

This course aims to help MA/MSc/MPhil and PhD students acquire skills in various aspects of dissertation writing.

WHY ATTEND THIS COURSE?

This course addresses the task of writing a dissertation. It aims to help postgraduate students to feel confident in the construction of this extended piece of writing, and to support students in its successful completion. This course also explains why literature reviews are needed, and how they can be conducted and reported. Here the focus of the course is the literature review within a dissertation or a thesis. This course also aims to help postgraduate students to understand the importance of including references to the information sources that one uses to underpin writing. The Course also explains the main principles of accurately referencing such sources in your work to avoid plagiarism. Finally, the course aims to give postgraduate students tips on how to survive a higher degree (i.e. MA, MBA, MSc., etc). The focus is on strategies and techniques that can facilitate completion of postgraduate studies with minimum constraints.

DAY 1: DISSERTATION WRITING

1. What is an MA/MSc/MPhil?PhD Dissertation/Thesis?
2. Planning and Managing Your Dissertation
3. Writing your dissertation
4. Critical reading versus critical writing

DAY 2: DISSERTATION WRITING & REFERENCING

1. Doing a Literature Review
2. Avoiding Plagiarism
3. Referencing styles
4. In-text Citation and Bibliography

DAY 3: HOW TO SURVIVE A HIGHER DEGREE

1. Surviving a Higher Degree
2. Student/Supervisor Relationship

HOW WILL THIS COURSE BE TAUGHT?

This course will be taught through a series of seminars which will include individual as well as group exercises. You are welcome to bring in your own work which you can refer to during the seminars.

WHO THE COURSE IS FOR?

The course is designed for MA/MSc/MPhil/PhD students who are currently doing their research work. Those who are in first year or are at proposal-writing level may also find this course useful and relevant although it was not designed for them.

FEES AND FUNDING

The following groups will attend the Short Course for free; MBA Group 16, IDM Group 5, EPM & WRSM Group 2, MTVE Group 2, and MPhil & PhD 2014 & 2015 Groups. The course fees will be MK35 000 for the three days for other participants.

TEACHING DAYS & HOURS

The course will take place from 28 - 30 October 2015 and will run from 9.30am – 4.30pm. Weekend and evening session may be arranged based on need.

FACILITATOR

The course will be facilitated by a team of writing and language experts from the Polytechnic. The team will be led by Dr PM Mhagama

REGISTRATION

Please register your participation by sending a completed registration form to dean-postgraduate@poly.ac.mw by 20th October 2015.