

Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies Thesis Guidelines

Your thesis must be an original piece of scholarly work that provides a significant contribution to academic educational discourses. If you do empirical research on live human subjects you must pass an ethics review at your home institution and a copy of your ethics approval should be included in your thesis.

As per any piece of academic work, students are required to follow the guidelines established by their home university with regards to academic integrity and language usage. Students should check with the regulations of the library at their home institution for instructions about uploading the thesis and copyright information.

The thesis should begin with a title page, following the template provided by the Inter-University Doctoral Administrative Committee. Normally a thesis will be between 200 and 300 pages in length, approximately 60,000 to 85,000 words. Normally the thesis will be written following A.P.A. guidelines. Normally the type will be Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. The thesis will be double-spaced. Margins are normally 1" on top and right side, and may be 1.5" on the left to allow space for binding a paper version. A header should normally be included on each page that includes a shortened version of the title. The page numbers should normally be included in the right bottom corner.

Typically, an empirical thesis begins with an introductory chapter, has a chapter that provides a literature review, another chapter that provides an overview of the methodology, a chapter that summarizes findings, and then a chapter that provides analysis and discusses the implications of the study.

Students should consult with their doctoral supervisor and committee for more detailed instruction and feedback on the development of their thesis. The Inter-University Doctoral Committee does not wish to put stringent regulations in place that may hamper the opportunities for students to do theoretical/conceptual work or creative/artistic endeavours as part of their doctoral dissertation work.

The Inter-University Administrative Committee would like to clarify its stance with regards to formatting, proofreading and editing:

a) It is acceptable for students to obtain assistance (informally or they may hire a professional) to assist with formatting and/or proofreading the thesis. Formatting involves ensuring the print is consistent, headers are correct, margins are accurate, etc. Proofreading involves checking for minor spelling/grammatical or typing errors, and noting any minor inconsistencies or omissions in the references. These are the kinds of corrections that might be provided by a copy editor in a journal publication.

b) Students are expected to develop the writing skills and academic capacities throughout the program so that they can edit their own thesis. By the end of this degree, students should be capable scholarly writers. It is NOT acceptable to hire a professional editor to make substantive changes to the thesis, nor is the doctoral supervisor expected to be responsible for doing major editorial work on a student's thesis.

IDAC does not provide any funding to students to pay for the expenses of hiring a professional to do formatting or proofreading of a thesis.