

Modules 3a&b: GRSC6120/6121 Introduction to Thesis Writing (3 hours)

Aims/Objectives

This module will prepare RPs to develop systematic knowledge of how to write about their research and apply such knowledge to their writing in a professional manner both within and beyond their degree.

Content

The module will address the basic elements of thesis writing. In particular, it will look at how the overall structure and organisation of a thesis, as well as the concerns particular to each stage of the work, contribute to successful academic and professional communication. RPs choose between two streams according to their research disciplines: (i) *humanities and related disciplines* (Module 3a) and (ii) *sciences and related disciplines* (Module 3b).

Enrollment

It is not necessary for students to take this module in the first semester of their studies and very often students find it more beneficial if they take it in their second semester when they have had a better grasp of their own research project. For students who have been notified individually by the GS to take a 30-hour module titled Intensive English for Postgraduate Students, enrollment on this module is restricted to those who have passed that module. This is a firm requirement with no exceptions.

Assessment

Students' completion of the module is assessed on a pass/fail basis by coursework assessment; there is no examination for this module. Students are expected to attend all classes, and attendance will be recorded by Attendance@HKU (or other means).

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, students' awareness of the various skills at different stages of writing a thesis will be enhanced and they will be able to move forward in their thesis writing systematically. More specifically, students will be able to:

- demonstrate awareness of the overall communicative purpose and argumentative structure of a thesis (or part of a thesis);
- identify and apply language features, rhetorical devices, and the citation and referencing format used by academics in writing up research in their discipline; and
- apply knowledge of overall communicative organisation in a thesis as well as linguistic and rhetorical features when writing about their own research.