

Collaborative dissertations

What is a collaborative dissertation?

A collaborative dissertation is a research dissertation conducted between a student and an external partner organisation, with academic guidance and support coming from an academic supervisor. Project proposals can originate either from the student or the organisation and should be ultimately agreed and approved by the dissertation supervisor.

The University of Glasgow's Collaborative Dissertation Initiative is based on an awareness that many organisations need good quality research and that students are often eager to conduct research, which has immediate relevance to external organisations and demonstrates the application of their academic learning.

The student is expected to provide the organisation with a Executive Summary after submitting their dissertation –with key findings, potential solutions and next steps.

For further information, you can visit [our webpages](#) to see examples of [previous collaborations](#), student [testimonials](#) and examples of [Executive Summaries](#).

- You can submit general research themes OR specific projects and as many as you like, so long as you indicate how many students you are willing and able to work with **in total**.
- There will be an application process and we will provide you with either a shortlist or preferred candidate for you to review & interview
- You are NOT obliged to take on a student if the fit isn't right, likewise we cannot guarantee a student will be matched to your organisation
- Research period – usually end April/early May – mid July with write up in August and submission late August/early September – this does vary a little depending on the Masters programme the student is on.
- You will receive an Executive Summary of the research within two weeks of the student submitting the dissertation. You may also request a copy of the full dissertation.

- This is NOT a placement and the student is not required to be in your office – but you can host them if you wish.

What you are expected to provide:

- A mentor or main point of contact who will provide information, access to resources/existing data, introductions to people to interview (if relevant), etc.
- Agreement to work with the student and supervisor to ensure that the project is relevant to both the student and your organisation – the student will arrange this, but your attendance is required at the initial meeting involving all three parties

The student will also seek permission from you to share the Executive Summary – on their LinkedIn profile, with me for our webpages. However, you are NOT obliged to grant this if the information within is sensitive or confidential to your organisation. This will be sought after you have received the Report.

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Benefits

- The organisation will receive high quality research relevant to their organisational needs at no cost
- The student will get the opportunity to conduct research of real relevance to an external organisation with practical impact and to build networks relevant to their future employment

Roles:

The organisation should

- Allocate a mentor to maintain regular contact with the student to devise and refine the research project.
- Provide access to resources – existing information/research, introductions to people as potential interview candidates etc.

Students should

- Engage regularly with the organisation and academics and act as a conduit for communicating the organisation's needs and the academic requirements of the dissertation
- Act in a professional manner and be respectful of the culture and working practices of the external organisations
- Ensure the dissertation that meets the academic requirements of their programme
- Produce an Executive Report within 2 weeks of submitting the dissertation. Guidance on this will be issued separately

Academics

- Should support and supervise the student in the same way as a standard dissertation offering advice on developing the topic, ensuring it meets the requirements of the dissertation and Ethics advice
- Are NOT responsible for managing the partnership between the student and the organisation.
- *May* provide the student with guidance on the Executive Report

Employability Office will:

- Work with organisations to source projects and themes for potential research
- Promote the opportunities to students across the College, with clear guidance and support on the application process
- Support the students and organisations throughout the process including guidance on the Executive report
- Seek feedback from students, organisations and supervisors to continuously improve the initiative.

For further information or to discuss possible collaborations please contact:

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