

Research Capacity Building Workshop

24. Preparing a research proposal



Purpose of workshop

To work through the processes involved in preparing a research proposal, with short tea break.

- “Supervisor” or “promoter” will be referred to as a “supervisor”.
- “Thesis” or “dissertation” will be referred to as a “thesis”.

Each faculty/department has its own:

- rules
- forms
- assessment criteria

If anything you hear at this workshop contradicts what your supervisor says, listen to your supervisor.

Presenter credentials

- Researched academic writing since 1986.
- Finished my own doctoral thesis in 2008 – had 9 supervisors and attended 5 universities.
- Supervised over 30 students (2 overseas) in the last 6 years.
- Published 3 books: writing; research methodology; principle informing writing, learning and research.
- As FAD Research Co-ordinator, processed over 50 MTech and DTech research proposals.

Preliminary

- Numbers of DUT non-DUT students?
- How many are DUT staff?
- Who will be attending on Friday 9/11?
(Writing up a research proposal)
- There are a few print copies if not enough computers.

The purpose of a proposal

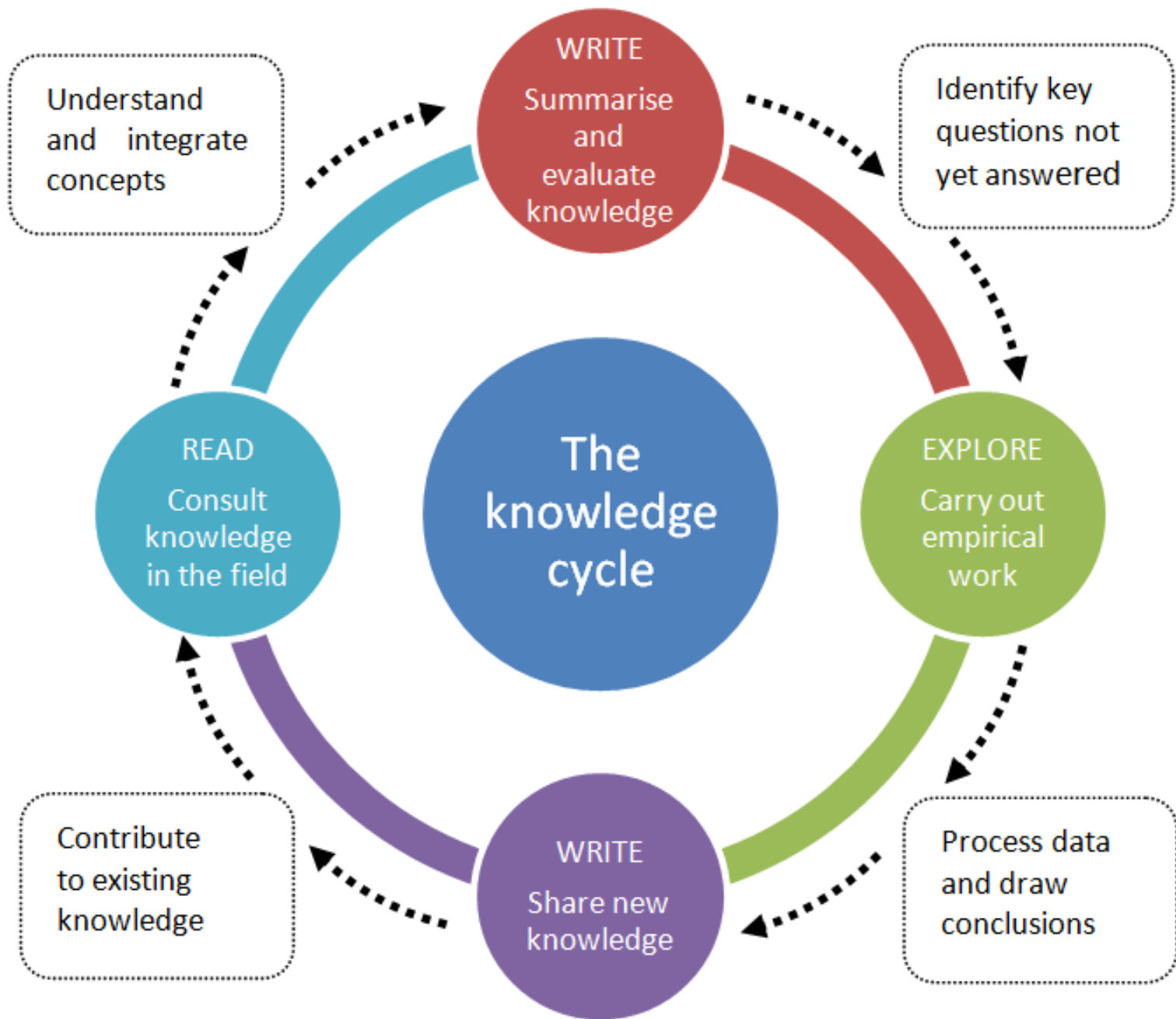
- To inform your university/department as to what you intend to do as your research project.
- This means that you need to have done some **research** into your intended research project.

Criteria for masters

Candidates are not generally expected to make an original theoretical or fundamental contribution to their field of knowledge, but through the provision of **new data** or information they should demonstrate proficiency in research methods and the ability to work independently. Master's graduates are expected to exhibit **mastery of research methodology** and evidence of understanding scholarly processes at work, as evident through a novel project.

Criteria for doctorate

The necessary and defining requirement for the award of a doctoral degree is **an original contribution to a field of study**, the originality needing to lie more at a theoretical, conceptual or analytic level than at the level of producing new data. In addition, proficiency in research methods and **the ability to think and work independently** must be demonstrated.



Online Research Module

An online Research Module has been set up at the following web address:

<http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/>

Click on category *RPS Research Capacity Building*, and click on course *Higher Degrees Research Module*.

To log in:

User ID: staff or student number

Password: research