

# Research Capacity Building Workshop

## 25. Writing up a research proposal



# Online Forum

An online forum has been set up at the following web address: <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/>

Click on the category *RPS Research Capacity Building*, and click on the course *Research Matters*.

Materials are posted there online after workshops, including useful articles and books.

To log in:

User ID: staff or student number

Password: research

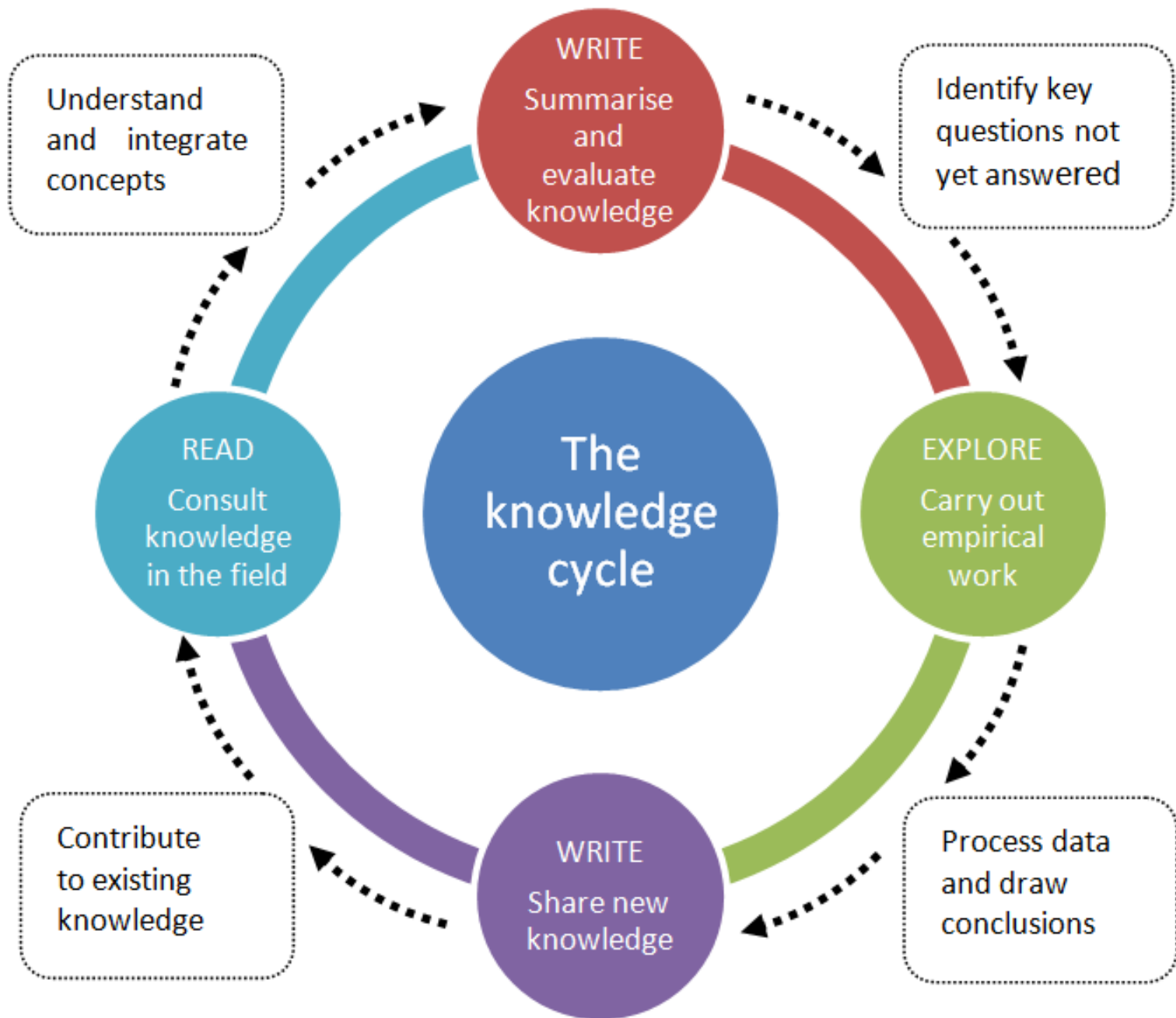
# Purpose of workshop

To work through form PG 4a: *Research Proposal and Ratification of Research Proposal by the Higher Degrees Committee*, with short tea break.

If there is time, we will look at PG 4b: *Research Ethics Checklist*, which has to be attached to PG 4a, with any supporting documents required

**\*Please note that the PG forms are updated each year.**

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



# 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.

# Writing skills

Writing up a proposal involves not only filling in data on a form, but also writing skills.

Supervisors and Faculty Research Committee members are not just looking at the content of your PG 4a, but also assessing your ability to write a thesis.



# Sections involving writing skills

- 1. Field of Research and Provisional Title**
- 2. Context of the Research**
- 3. Research Problem and Aims**
- 4. Literature Review**
- 5. Research Methodology**

# Types of feedback

Feedback can be directed towards:

1. your ideas (i.e. content)
2. structure (including headings) or
3. surface issues (grammar, spelling, research conventions).

Try to obtain *the type of feedback that you need* at any given stage of writing up your proposal.

*Many supervisors give Type 3. feedback only.*

# Working through PG 4a

We will work through issues involved in completing form PG 4a on another online course, *Research Matters*. This has been set up at the following web address:

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# Workshop feedback

We need feedback from participants to support running a similar series of weekly research workshops next year.

Please take a few minutes to respond to the message about feedback in the social forum in *Research Matters*.

**N.B. This is *not* a research survey and will not be used as part of a research project.**