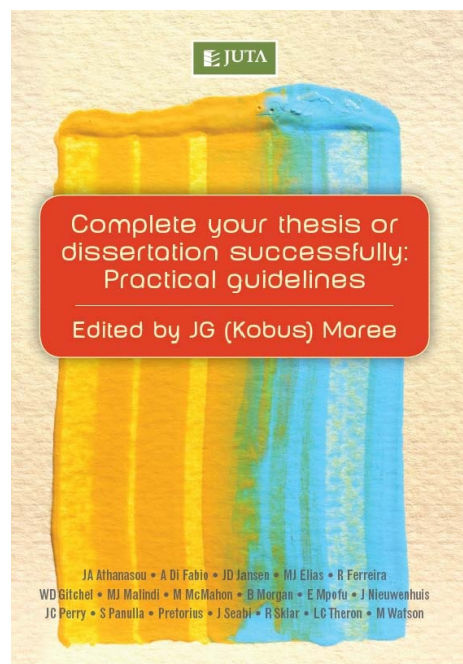


# Complete Your Thesis or Dissertation Successfully

**Edition:** 1st Edition  
**Publication date:** 2012  
**Author/Editors:** Maree, JG  
**ISBN:** 9780702189166  
**Format:** Soft Cover  
**Number of Pages:** 280  
**Retail price:** R848.00 (incl. VAT, excl. delivery.)  
**Website Link:** [juta.co.za/pdf/23142/](http://juta.co.za/pdf/23142/)



## About this Publication:

*Complete your thesis or dissertation successfully: Practical guidelines* provides fundamentally important information to students of the social sciences completing their master's or doctoral studies, as well as to their supervisors and study leaders. Eminent scholars have contributed to the book and have created a text that is easy to read and use, yet does not water down the conceptual and terminological complexities of the process. For the very first time the most recent and current perspectives on how to complete master's or doctoral studies have been brought together in one publication that will equip relatively inexperienced researchers to write a thesis or dissertation.

Current, practical, South African, up-to-date, cross-disciplinary, the book includes numerous examples of best practice, provides research sites to consult and includes a chapter on article writing.

## **Contents Include:**

### **Chapter 1: The quality of doctoral education in South Africa: A question of significance**

by Jonathan D Jansen

- Introduction
- The quest for significance in doctoral research
- Kinds of significance

### **Chapter 2: Planning your thesis: Systemic and personal issues**

by Mark Watson and Mary McMahon

- Introduction
- Systemic issues: choosing an institution for your research
- Systemic issues: choosing a supervisor for your research
- Systemic issues: you as a postgraduate researcher
- Procedures for managing systemic issues

### **Chapter 3: Choosing a topic**

by Gertie Pretorius and Brandon Morgan

- Introduction
- Choosing a topic
- Narrowing down the topic
- Technical support with regard to choosing a topic
- The researcher's capabilities
- Is the research original?
- Matching the topic with the research method
- Practical tips and suggestions

### **Chapter 4: Writing a research proposal**

by Ronél Ferreira

- Introduction
- Purpose of a research proposal
- Components of a research proposal
- Practical guidelines for writing a research proposal

### **Chapter 5: Theoretical-conceptual and structural aspects of thesis writing**

by James A Athanasou, Elias Mpofu, W Dent Gitchel and Maurice J Elias

- Introduction
- Conceptual framework
- The research question
- The importance of structure
- Should one follow a particular structure?

### **Chapter 6: Basic issues in thesis writing**

by W Dent Gitchel and Elias Mpofu

- Introduction
- The research premise
- The research paradigm
- Methodological assumptions
- The SWH model
- How to approach the thesis-writing process

### **Chapter 7: Sampling and research paradigms**

by Brandon Morgan and Rony H Sklar

- Introduction
- Sampling
- Research paradigms
- Quantitative research
- Qualitative research
- Mixed-methods research
- Fixed reality and multiple realities: the ontological shift

### **Chapter 8: Research designs and data collection techniques**

by Joseph Seabi

- Introduction
- Research designs

- Types of research designs
- Data collection techniques

### **Chapter 9: Conducting qualitative research: Practical guidelines on fieldwork**

by Linda C Theron and Macalane J Malindi

- Introduction
- Planning your fieldwork
- Doing fieldwork
- Following up on your fieldwork

### **Chapter 10: Writing the quantitative research method chapter**

by Brandon Morgan and Rony H Sklar

- Introduction
- The components of a research method chapter
- The introduction
- Aims
- Quantitative research strategy and design
- Participants
- Research instruments/measures/data collection instruments
- Research procedure
- Data analysis
- Ethics in quantitative research
- Conducting quantitative research fieldwork: guidelines

### **Chapter 11: Conducting mixed-methods research**

by Justin C Perry

- Introduction
- What is the mixed-methods approach?
- Why do mixed-methods research?
- Illustrative examples
- Guidelines for writing a mixed-methods thesis

### **Chapter 12: Ensuring quality in scholarly writing**

by Annamaria Di Fabio and JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- The recording of sessions between supervisors and students
- Quantitative approaches Validity
- Qualitative approaches
- Data analysis in qualitative research
- Trustworthiness
- Triangulation
- Crystallisation
- Triangulation or crystallisation? Or both?
- References

### **Chapter 13: Linking purpose and ethics in thesis writing: South African illustrations of an international perspective**

by Maurice J Elias and Linda C Theron

- Introduction
- Alternative contributions that a thesis can make
- Ethical principles
- Informed consent
- Inclusion of university/college students as experimental participants in research
- Assessment of risks and benefits
- Equitable selection of participants
- Endnotes
- References
- Appendix 13.1: Sample informed consent letter

### **Chapter 14: Writing style**

by JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- General aspects of writing style in theses
- Basic linguistic and stylistic guidelines
- Common areas of error

### **Chapter 15: Communication between student and supervisor**

by Gertie Pretorius

- Introduction
- Finding a potential supervisor
- The roles and responsibilities of the student
- The roles and responsibilities of the supervisor
- The research contract
- Communication and conflict
- Conclusion
- Endnote
- References
- Appendix 15.1: An example of a supervisor–student contract

### **Chapter 16: The role of critical readers in postgraduate studies**

by Jan Nieuwenhuis

- Introduction
- What is critical reading?
- What is meant by the term ‘critical review’?
- What does it take to be a good critical reviewer?
- When to involve critical readers
- The critical review process

### **Chapter 17: Examining a thesis and writing an examiner’s report**

by JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- Generic aspects of thesis examination
- Failing a candidate
- Criteria for evaluating a thesis
- Appendix 17.1: Template for evaluation
- Appendix 17.2: Example of an examiner’s report

### **Chapter 18: Choosing examiners for a thesis or dissertation**

by JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- Why are examiners’ reports so important?
- Should national (local) or international examiners be appointed to examine theses?
- The nature of examiners’ reports
- Whom to appoint as examiners
- Ensuring a fair examination process

### **Chapter 19: How to prepare for an oral doctoral examination**

by JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- Procedure for an oral examination
- Why an oral examination?
- Components of an oral defence
- Structure of an oral defence
- Possible questions during an oral defence

### **Chapter 20: The ultimate aim of your studies: Getting a manuscript published**

by JG (Kobus) Maree

- Introduction
- Why write manuscripts?
- Essential information before you start writing
- Why some people get their manuscripts accepted while others do not
- Shedding light on why you wish to get published
- Deciding on a topic
- The title of your manuscript
- Identifying an appropriate journal
- Preliminary aspects of article writing
- Writing the body of the text
- Drawing up a brief checklist that can help you decide whether your manuscript is ready for submission
- Role of critical readers
- Preparing the manuscript for submission: meeting language and technical requirements
- Submitting your manuscript

- Appendix 20.1: List of possible reviewers' comments

## **Chapter 21: Electronic submissions to journals**

by JG (Kobus) Maree and Sharon Panulla

- Do scholarly articles with open access status attract more citations than those without?
- Submitting manuscripts online

### **Of Interest and Benefit to:**

Students of the social sciences completing their master's or doctoral studies, as well as to their supervisors and study leaders.