BRIDGING PROGRAMME IN THESIS SUCCESS

DESCRIPTION

STADIO Higher Education offers a unique bridging programme to equip and support master's students who would like to enrol for its doctorate degrees.

The Bridging Programme is aimed at students who have obtained a master's degree, but who are not regarded as, or who do not feel, ready yet for a doctorate. The Programme is unique in its design, as it combines exemplars drawn from scientific literature, self-exploratory readings on research methodology topics, and applied assignments that should enable students to align the contents of a research proposal from the start (topic/title) to the end (list of references).

Students will be empowered to narrate 'The Golden Thread' throughout their doctoral project. Such a narrative should create coherence and alignment across the main features of a research proposal which includes abstract/introductory section; formulating the *central argument of the study;* thesis statement; research problem; literature review; theoretical and conceptual frameworks; main research aim; research questions/objectives/hypotheses; research design and methodology; and finally, the analysis and organisation of the data and the conclusions that can be drawn.

Eminent academics will be involved at crucial stages of the programme, including Professor Johann Mouton, whose textbook, *How to succeed in your Master's & Doctoral Studies – A South African Guide and Resource Book*, is prescribed.

- The **purpose of the programme** is to provide students with the required research skills and methodological knowledge to embark on a full doctoral research thesis journey.
- **Programme presenter**: the vastly experienced academic, supervisor and author, Professor C. H. (Neels) van Heerden.
- **Duration**: six months.

- **Admission requirements**: a qualification at SAQA Level 9 (master's degree).
- **Certification**: students who successfully complete the course will receive a Certificate of Competence
- **Final outcome**: a draft proposal that exemplifies the required scientific quality expected at doctoral level.
- **Progression unto the doctorate degree at Milpark Education**: successful candidates may gain admission to the DBA at Milpark Education; however, this is not guaranteed. Admission is subject to the scientific quality of a thesis research proposal that has to be submitted at the conclusion of the Bridging Programme in Thesis Success.
- **Registration Fee**: R5 600
- **Tuition Fee**: R10 000
- **Application fee**: R460
- **Mode of delivery**: Full course content on an online platform, Webinars, and Online discussion forums
- **Administrative enquiries**: Ms Makhosazana Dlamini, phone: 011 718 4000, email: makhosazana.dlamini@milpark.ac.za
- **Academic enquiries**: Prof. C. H. (Neels) van Heerden, phone 083 415 3541, email: neelsv@stadio.ac.za

Course contents

Topics	Sub-Topics	Deliverables
The logic of research		
Choosing a topic for a thesis	Draft title Keyword identification	How to construct a working title How to identify relevant keywords to focus the literature review
AIB	Abstract, introduction and background	How to and when to write the abstract, introduction and background
Literature review	Alignment – from topic to planning the literature review Problem statement Research gaps Thesis statement Conceptual/Theoretical Framework Small-scale literature review	Drafting a suitable research problem How to identify research gaps Determine probable contribution Differentiate between types of frameworks and how to construct an appropriate framework Design a literature review matrix relating to your topic, thesis statement, and conceptual map. Plan and conduct a small-scale literature review relating to the selected topic.
Research design	Selecting an appropriate research design to address the research problem. Describe the population of interest.	Research design options. Develop a data collection plan. Develop a data analysis plan.
Research methodology	Alignment – from title to instrument(s) Methods Population sampling	Building alignment from start to finish. Select the most appropriate method(s). Describe the population of interest. Develop a sampling plan.
	Data collection	Select the most appropriate data collection method(s) for

	methods, types, tools, and techniques Measuring instrument(s)	quantitative qualitative mixed methods. Construct the most appropriate measuring instrument(s).
	Data analysis methods, processes, and types	Select the most appropriate data analysis method(s), process(es), and type(s).
Research ethics	Types and examples	• Protect the rights of research participants. • Enhance research validity. • Maintain scientific or academic integrity.
Writing skills	The golden thread	Constructing the argument – sentence by sentence/paragraph by paragraph/section by section/page by page
List of references	Representation of sources quoted and proper referencing	Use of technology Filing and retrieval Constructing a proper list
Managing your supervisor	The mutual relationship between student and supervisor	Communication schedule Signing an agreement
The final proposal	Drafting a draft research proposal	The scientific quality of the proposal must convince a postgraduate research committee that it is suitable (meet the requirements of the doctoral degree program) and manageable (within time and budget constraints).