

DISSERTATION

Timeline - Keela Mac Hale MA DTCE

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Supervisor Allocation and Brainstorming

DISSERTATION HANDBOOK 2024-25

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In March the Dissertation Handbook and other materials were uploaded to our Blackboard page. This is also the time we were told that we would need to submit a few lines to the Dissertation Coordinator about what we topic we wanted to chose. I spent a few days brainstorming and writing lists and eventually decided I wanted to do a design dissertation, ultimately creating a VR tool to enhance Teacher Training in Ireland.

Meeting 1

My supervisor and I had our first meeting online via a teams call. I remember being nervous before the meeting not knowing what to expect. Thankfully my supervisor loved my initial idea and was very supportive of my plans. We made an initial plan. For our next meeting I was to have read around AI and the Reflective Practitioner and finalise a reading list for my literature review.

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Meeting 2

Meeting 2 was in person in my supervisors office in the Ellen Wilkinson Building on campus. I was a little nervous as I thought I was going to be tested on what I had read. That was not the case. We ended up talking about the overall ideas and common themes that came up and what I found useful. We agreed that by the next meeting I would have sent him a draft of my literature review. I then spent the next few week working on a literature review I had originaly thought this was going to be awful but actually it flew by and was suprisingly easy to write.

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Meeting 3

Meeting 3 was relatively quick. At this point I had got feedback on my literature review whihc we discussed briefly in the meeting. I didnt have a lot to change so I made the changes as soon as the meeting finished. I also had finished my VR prototype and was able to bring in my VR Headset and hand controllers for my supervisor to see and test out. We both had fun testing the VR and I could really see the project coming together now. My supervisor was delighted with my progress which gave me a confidence boost.

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Mid July – Evaluation

Mid July was the time that I carried out my evaluation. I did this via user testing. I gathered a small tutorial sized group to test out and give me feedback on my VR prototype. This was fun and made the project seem "real". At this stage I had completed the majority of my dissertation and had emailed my supervisor for corrections and suggestions. To my surprise my supervisor didnt think it was necessary to have a 4th meeting as I was practically finished the assignment! I was delighted to be finsihed so early. It was a breeze to write as I was so interested in my project. (or maybe ADHD Hyper-focus lol)

August 9th – Submission

Submission Day! This was one of my proudest moments to date and also my strongest piece of writing. The process overall was a bit scary to begin with but overall a joy. I think the main reason for this is choosing a topic I was passionate about. It never felt laborious or a chore to write and led to a quicker completion than a lot of my peers. My main piece of advice is choose something you love and work little and often!

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Celebrating the Irish way:)