

Subject Code	FH6003		
Subject Title	DALs Thesis I		
Credit Value	9		
Level	6		
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Completion of at least 5 subjects (including 2 compulsory)		
Objectives	This subject is among the most important learning activities of the DALs programme. It allows students to demonstrate their understanding of relevant issues, conceptual models, and/or theories related to their chosen area of study, and ability to write a research proposal that clearly articulates how state-of-the-art methodology will be applied to their research. The subject serves as the preparation stage for DALs Thesis II.		
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) examine critically and in depth a topic of interest arising from their chosen area of study; b) formulate a problem/issue in their chosen area of study for further investigation; c) apply state-of-the-art research methodology to tackle the problem or issue formulated; d) prepare an extended research proposal for further study. 		
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<p>There are four stages in the preparation of the thesis: (i) approval of the topic by the supervisor; (ii) approval of the outline of the proposed research plan; (iii) approval of the completed draft; and (iv) completion and submission. Thesis I represents the first and second stages of the thesis process.</p> <p>Students may choose any topic from any area in the programme for this thesis project, preferably related to the research interests of the teaching staff of the DALs.</p>		
Teaching/Learning Methodology	Students should seek regular advice from their supervisors. Face-to-face meetings and e-correspondences should be initiated by students, and they are expected to work independently based on their supervisors' advice.		
Assessment Methods in Alignment with	Specific assessment	%	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed

Intended Learning Outcomes	methods/tasks	weighting	(Please tick as appropriate)			
			a	b	c	d
	Continuous Assessment*	100%				
	Research proposal and thesis	100%	√	√	√	√
	Total	100 %				

**Weighting of assessment method/tasks in continuous assessment may be different, subject to each supervisor.*

In consultation with the thesis supervisor, the student is expected to work out a proposed research plan which must show evidence of sound background research and state in the following specific term:

- aims and objectives;
- review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used;
- the basis for the research problem with reference to other such research;
- the conceptual framework for the research;
- the methodology of the study, i.e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analyzed and reported;
- the research schedule;
- references.

Panel Assessment

To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Pass in the Continuous Assessment components. The research proposal will be assessed by a panel of two or three academics. The student will have to defend the proposal in front of the panel, while the panel will decide that the proposal:

- may proceed with a research as proposed; or
- needs to make minor revisions before conducting the research; or
- needs to make major revisions within a 3-month period and these must be approved by the review panel before the participant begins conducting the research; or
- needs to make major revisions and present the proposal within a 3 to 6 months period.

Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Meeting between student & supervisor	30Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation for dissertation proposal	480Hrs.
	Total student study effort	510Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Bitchener, John. (2010) <i>Writing an Applied Linguistics Thesis or Dissertation</i>. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Lunenburg, Frederick C. (2008) <i>Writing a Successful Thesis or Dissertation</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.</p> <p>Paltridge, Brian & Sue Starfield (2007) <i>Thesis and Dissertation Writing in a Second Language: A Handbook for Supervisors</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>文秋芳著，2001，《应用语言学：研究方法与论文写作》。北京：外语教学与研究出版社。</p> <p>(Additional readings to be recommended by the supervisor.)</p>	