

MSI320 DISSERTATION ASSESSMENT BRIEF

Assignment Name	MSI320 Dissertation
Assignment Weighting	100% (30 credits)
Module Leader	Dr D Ferrett
Assessment Task	Submit a 7500–8000-word Dissertation. You can go 10% over the maximum word count or 10% under the minimum word count.

Dissertation Overview

Drawing on your degree studies in the first and second year, a Dissertation is a written research project undertaken in the third and final year of your undergraduate degree. A Dissertation involves independent research about a topic of your choice within the field(s) of your developing expertise in music and sound.

The module aims for you to develop the following:

1. The development of the skills required for effective independent research;
2. The confidence and skills necessary to make written contributions to pertinent discussions and debate in your field;
3. The knowledge and ability to reflect upon and critically interrogate practice in a manner consistent with contemporary academic discourse.

MSI320 Brief

Building on your work in the first and second year, the problem or question you propose should be based on contextual understanding of relevant and contemporary debates and discussions in your specific area of music and sound. You should carry out an in-depth and critical investigation into your Dissertation topic and research question with the aim of producing a well-structured written response to your research question that contributes to the wider knowledge on your topic.

All Dissertations need to adhere to the presentation conventions outlined in the module handbook guidance which you will find on the learning space. The word count includes all text from the beginning title in the introduction until the last word of the conclusion (excluding title pages, content list, abstract, bibliography, appendices). You will need to follow all presentation conventions as explained in the module handbook guidance and this includes Falmouth Harvard referencing.

Submission Details

Please view MyFalmouth for your deadline. Submit a word file on to Turnitin via the module learning space. Here is link to guidance: [submitting work via Turnitin](#). Please allow time to familiarise yourself with Turnitin.

Ensure that you use a stable internet connection (on-campus recommended) and allow enough time to upload your work. In case of any issues with your upload contact Digital Learning team dlsupport@falmouth.ac.uk for help and take screenshots showing your upload time.

Assessment Criteria

A good Dissertation demonstrates a well-researched understanding of the existing knowledge on a specific subject and proceeds to coordinate a written discussion that provides new directions and offers interesting contemporary relevance. A Dissertation should engage with multiple perspectives and context; it is critically reflective and provokes considered discussion whilst proposing a central argument. The Dissertation should help you (and any reader) to better understand and critically question your topic. Please use the Dissertation seminars and supervision sessions to discuss any questions on the Assessment Criteria referring to the below.

Marks are awarded as follows:

Percentage	Classification	Description
90-100%	1 st	Exceptional
80-89%	1 st	Outstanding
70-79%	1 st	Excellent
60-69%	2:1	Very good
50-59%	2:2	Good
40-49%	3 rd	Satisfactory
30-39%	Fail	Poor
1-29%	Fail	Very poor

Learning Outcomes

LO	Learning Outcome	Assessment Criteria
2	<p>Critical Thinking <i>Think critically about concepts, contexts and practice, evaluating these through scholarship, and/or self-reflection.</i></p>	Engage (via analysis and evaluation) with other – possibly opposed – views within a debate, as part of a contextually appropriate discussion. Present ideas systematically, locating them within relevant cultural debates and existing bodies of knowledge. Adopt a creative and innovative approach to making considered connections between your ideas, questions and research.
5	<p>Research <i>Produce informed work through the use of appropriate research methods.</i></p>	Identify and employ appropriate research methodologies and strategies to produce an informed discussion. Evidence the deployment of a relevant, well-developed and well-considered list of resources.
6	<p>Skills <i>Demonstrate a sufficiently high-quality skill-set to realise your work.</i></p>	Present a focused line of argument and shape a written discussion. Demonstrate the ability to observe and work with research protocols, and appropriate publishing and editing conventions. Sustain a quality and appropriateness of written expression.

Formative Feedback

You will receive formative (informal) feedback that will help guide your progress primarily in your individual and group supervision as well as an opportunity to submit an introduction, structure and one chapter in week 8. You may also receive formative feedback from seminar and reading café discussions alongside any support that you request from ASK services (e.g., link to [bookable 1-1s](#) for writing support) and/or our Academic Liaison Librarian Rosy Enys (e.g., link to [book an appointment with a librarian](#) for research support).

Summative Feedback (see next page 3)

Your assessor will provide you with your mark, annotations and overall text comment summary via Turnitin. You can access instructions for accessing feedback via Turnitin here: [advice for accessing electronic feedback](#). You will also receive a 20-30 min oral feedback session with your tutor who will go through your feedback comments in Turnitin, explain your mark and answer any questions.

Useful Links

- Academic Integrity: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/study-guides/referencing/academic-integrity>
- Music and Sound Library Resources: <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/music-sound>
- Accessibility & Inclusive Learning: <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support/accessibility>
- Extenuating Circumstances: <https://fxplus.ac.uk/faqs/how-do-i-apply-for-extenuating-circumstances/>
- Potentially using AI: <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/ai>

Questions

Please use your sessions with your supervisor and sessions with the Module Leader for questions. Outside of your sessions, please use the Module Forum on the Learning Space for any questions about the module and the assessment. Topic specific questions should be directed principally to your individual supervisor.