­Transcript

Chapter 1: Introduction

One of the most important things to do when thinking about the dissertation process is to think clearly, and strategically, about your supervision meetings. You're probably going to have 6 or 7 opportunities to meet your supervisor, so you need to make sure that you get the most out of these sessions.

One way of doing this is to prepare for the meeting, and make a log what comes out of the meeting itself. This will allow you to see quite clearly what you want to do with the meeting, but also what to do after. You can do this by answering two questions before your supervision session:

* What the meeting is going to be about
* What specific questions do I need answering

And another question after it:

* What do I need to do after the meeting

It's also possible to email your supervisor with a few questions. This is generally OK, but you also need to remember that it can take quite a lot of time to respond to an email and to type out an answer. Particularly where that answer is complex. So can be a good idea to make a note of the question and ask them in person. Doing this will also enable you to clarify your understanding of that response, rather than creating long email chains.

It’s also worth remembering that your supervisor is likely to be supervising other dissertations, as well as managing other teaching, research, and administrative duties. This means that their workload is likely to be spread across the full time frame of your frame of the dissertation process. This doesn’t necessarily make it difficult for supervisors to respond immediately to your concerns and worries - particularly if they are spread evenly across the process. However, it does also mean that they will struggle to create the time necessary to supervise you effectively if you leave everything towards the end. So start early, and keep working throughout the process.