

Common Organisational Structures by Discipline

Pattern 1: Often found in: Social Sciences, MPLS	Notes
- o Introduction - o Literature Review - o Methods - o Results - o Discussion - o Conclusion	• This structure is most appropriate for a shorter project (i.e. Undergraduate thesis or Masters dissertation)
Pattern 2: Often found in: Social Sciences, MPLS, Medicine	
- o Introduction - o Literature Review - o Chapters 3, 4, 5 etc. - Introduction - Literature Review - Methods - Results - Discussion - o Overall Discussion and Conclusion	• This pattern works well for empirical studies (both qualitative or quantitative). • With this independent chapter section in the body, it can be upscaled to include multiple experiments/studies/publications, so would be appropriate for a longer document (MPhil, DPhil thesis)
Pattern 3: Often found in: Humanities	

- o Introduction and Contextualisation of Research - o Chapters 2, 3, 4 etc. Analysis and Interpretation of Texts, including Comparison with Literature - o Overall Discussion and Conclusion	• With this independent chapter section in the body, it can be upscaled to include multiple separate studies/foci/publications, so would be appropriate for a longer document (MPhil, DPhil thesis)
Pattern 4: Often found in: MPLS, Medicine	
- o Introduction and Literature Review - o Chapters 2, 3, 4 etc. Description and Evaluation of Algorithms, Theories, Approaches or Models, including Reference to Literature - o Overall Discussion and Conclusion	• This model is often used for more conceptual or theoretical explorations in the natural sciences • With this independent chapter section in the body, it can be upscaled to include multiple experiments/studies/publications, so would be appropriate for a longer document (MPhil, DPhil thesis)
Pattern 5: Often found in: Social Sciences	
- o Introduction - o Literature Review - o Chapters 3, 4, 5 etc. o Determined by type of research, including Reference to Literature - o Overall Discussion and Conclusion	• This has become the standard structure for theses/dissertations in the Social Sciences • It can be used for either a short or longer document (making it appropriate for all degree projects)