

Choosing a research topic

Key points to remember:

1. Ensure that the topic is an area of your field that you enjoy and are motivated to study at length
2. Ensure that you choose a topic that your tutor finds acceptable
3. Ensure that the topic you choose allows you to conduct your work to the required depth

With these factors in place you should be able to:

- conduct an in-depth, focused literature review
- develop a framework from the literature within which you will carry out your research
- carry out the proposed research
- analyse and interpret the material you have collected within your research framework
- develop your argument based on your new understanding of the topic
- demonstrate through your writing the validity of the work, your competence and, where appropriate, the value in others' changing their ideas and/or behaviours according to your findings

(based on Hilton, A. 1998. *Dissertation preparation & presentation*. Leicester: De Montford University. Pp6-7).