



Lay Summary in Theses

Purpose of Guidance

To provide guidance on the Postgraduate Degree and Assessment Regulations that require the inclusion of a lay summary in the thesis.

Scope: Guidance is not Mandatory

Postgraduate research students, supervisors of postgraduate research students and academic and support staff involved in postgraduate research thesis submission.

Contact Academic Quality and Standards academicpolicy@ed.ac.uk

Document control

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Approving authority Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations

Postgraduate Degree Regulations: www.drps.ed.ac.uk/
Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/assessment/assessment-regulations
Standards for the Format of a Thesis: www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/thesisbinding.pdf

Alternative format If you require this document in an alternative format please email Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk

Keywords Lay summary, thesis submission, final thesis submission



Lay Summary in Theses

A lay summary is intended to facilitate knowledge exchange, public engagement and outreach. It should be written in simple, non-technical terms that are easily understandable by a lay audience, who may be non-professional, non-scientific and outside the research area.

Abstracts, particularly in science, engineering, medicine and veterinary medicine, may be highly technical or contain scientific language that is not easily understandable to readers outside the research area. Therefore, the lay summary is supplementary to the abstract.

The lay summary should be incorporated at the beginning of each copy of the thesis submitted for assessment, and must be included in the final version of the submitted thesis. Students should use the University lay summary form. The lay summary is not included in the word-count. Lay summaries should conform to the requirements of the Standards for the Format of a Thesis.

Students may seek advice on the lay summary at any point from their Principal Supervisor.

Support and advice on training is available from the Institute for Academic Development.

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/institute-academic-development.

Download the lay summary form:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/thesislaysummary.docx>

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