

Managing Your Confirmation Seminar and Viva

Aim:

This workshop aims to help students prepare for their confirmation and viva by introducing the procedures, examiners' roles, expectations and offering tips on handling questions with a view to maximizing the effectiveness of their communication in confirmation seminar and viva.

Content:

This workshop will draw on the experience and observation of the facilitator and that of PhD/MPhil graduates as well as perspectives from supervisors from a range of disciplines at HKU. It will offer language tips for students on how to present their research briefly and demonstrate that they have sufficient understanding of the topic through discussion of related literature, define the objectives/hypothesis of their research, describe and justify the research design and methodology, as well as are able to defend the thesis, understand the significance of their work in the broad context of their subject and clarify any matters raised by their advisory panel and the examiners.

Organization:

This is a 3-hour workshop. It will feature case analysis, experience sharing and discussion of good practices for a confirmation seminar and a viva in the HKU context. Participants will have the chance to ask questions, present their research and receive peer and teacher feedback on their performance.

Enrollment:

This workshop is open to all research postgraduate students. The maximum number of enrollment for each workshop is restricted to 20. Students are advised to attend this workshop before or soon after they submit their probation report or they submit their dissertation for examination.

Task:

Each participant will identify a set of good practices for his/her own viva. There is no formal assessment.

Outcomes:

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to approach their confirmation seminar or viva with more systematic knowledge and better confidence. More specifically, they will be able to:

- demonstrate awareness of the purpose and features of a confirmation seminar and a viva and the expectations of the advisory panel and the examiners; and
- develop skills required for making an effective confirmation seminar and viva.