

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Entry Essay

Foreword

Students that intend to register for M & D studies are required to complete an entrance essay as part of the entry requirements.

Rationale

Experience indicates that candidates experience difficulty in terms of writing and formatting of among other, research proposals and actual dissertations. In order to be fair to all applicants and to ensure that the resources of the tertiary education system are optimally deployed, applicants are required to submit an entrance essay in accordance with the aspects mentioned below.

Essay title

The title of the study should be approximately between eight and fifteen words and reflect the problem or the outcome of the study or both, for example:

- “Factors impacting the performance of training institutions in Uganda”
- “Management perceptions regarding skills shortages in South African gold mines”

The problem

The essay should describe the background to the problem and describe the problem clearly. The main problem could be unpacked in smaller parts as sub-problems.



Literature review

The literature review should describe: (i) previous research, (ii) findings from previous research, and (iii) relevance of these findings to the current study. The candidate should refrain from rewriting the literature, but describing, discussing, comparing and commenting on the previous research and how that provides answers or solutions to the current problem and sub-problems.

Additional information

1. Please refer to the guidelines below on the format of the essay to be completed. Guidelines include the following:

- Document – Typed (Should not exceed 5 pages)
- Headings – Font (Times New Roman, size 12), Caps and bold
- Sub-headings – Font (Times New Roman, size 12), Bold & Italics
- Content – Font (Times New Roman, size 12)
- Spacing – 1.5 lines
- Content = Introduction + Main body + Conclusions + Recommendations + References

2. The essay will be evaluated based on the extent to which:

- The research problem was understood and addressed comprehensively;
- Independent (own) thought and original writing (in the candidate's own wording) is reflected;
- Insight in the topic was demonstrated;
- Logical, systematic thought and reasoning is demonstrated;
- Quality research was done;
- Conclusions are logic, meaningful and substantiated;
- Table of contents, references and list of sources are noted correctly;
- Style and language (grammar) meet the requirements, and
- Evaluator's general evaluation mark of the essay's quality - taking into consideration the above and other factors.

3. Reference other sources using the Harvard method of referencing.



4. One soft copy and one hard copy to be submitted.
5. **Do not plagiarise**, but acknowledge all sources and quotations and references to other sources and other person's intellectual capital – even personal communication with someone else and that that person said. Always acknowledge other people's intellectual capital by referencing and writing in your own original words. Use quotations only when you cannot phrase the issue as well as the original author did. Write in such a manner that it is clear what other authors expressed and what you are stating.
6. The essay should be **3 to 5 pages** in length.

