# Dissertation Timeline by Nikki Woods [Video Transcript]

As part of your course you may be required to submit a dissertation, this will require a plan. This video will provide an example of how to plan your dissertation using a timeline and the steps to consider at each stage.

**October**: Familiarise yourself with your Dissertation Guide and its contents. Check when the deadline for submission is and this will help in your planning. Try to identify a topic which interests you because you will be working on it for a good few months. It may help to start by doing your research to help develop ideas by using mind-maps to perhaps produce a proposal, if required.

**November**: as you do your reading develop your initial ideas, make notes and expand your thinking to help re-focus the topic. Do you have enough information to write a first draft plan? This will provide an overview of your structure. Do you need to show your plan to your tutor?

**December**: Have a cut-off point as to when you will stop collecting your literature so you can allow time to plan an overview to identify the key arguments in the reading and link these back to your plan. Having identified a few key ideas, are you able to develop your writing into a few draft paragraphs; is it possible to start jotting down a few possible titles and sub-titles? Remember this is only a draft and may change; are you able to submit any work for feedback?

**January**: use any feedback you have received to help develop and structure the revising of your draft paragraphs: these can be linked to start planning your chapters. You may wish to work on each chapter separately and finish writing the draft before moving onto the next. To do this, use the Dissertation Guide and your proposal as a ‘checklist’ to ensure you have included the aims and/or the objectives. This will act as a gentle reminder to keep you on track so all the aspects are covered and included.

**February**: amend any tutor’s suggestions and comments while it is still fresh. At this point the links and connections between the chapters become clearer. It is a good idea to revisit the structure and check the content, start to think about putting it all together; is the structure ‘logical’, linked and clear? Allow time to put it all together.

**March**: use any feedback to help write-up the final chapters. Once you are happy with the final copy ask a friend to review it for feedback. At the final stages check for the presentation and layout: does this meet the Dissertation Guidelines? Allow time for the printing and the binding.

Now you have completed the final dissertation, take a second to admire your hard work before submitting it. Well done.