

# Hamilton

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EDITORIAL



DISSERTATIONS

Hello!

Congratulations on making it to this point of your PhD. I very much remember how it feels – you're exhausted, bored of your own ideas, and just ready for it all to be finished. Once you've got that full draft together, the thought of reading those words over (and over)(and probably over) again... it's the last thing you want to do.

Your supervisors are there to provide you with support for your ideas, and to make sure that your research is rigorous. But they might not have time to go through your dissertation sentence by sentence to make sure that your work is readable, your language is consistent, and your thesis is free of typos and grammatical mistakes.

That's where I come in. I work with you and your supervisory team to get your dissertation looking as polished as possible, from the first word on your cover page through to the very last entry in your bibliography.

WELCOME



# A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME...

*I love editing dissertations.*

I get to read brand-new research, work a little word magic, and then celebrate when you succeed. I am also perhaps the most unjudgemental editor you're likely to come across because I have been exactly where you are. I have felt the frustration, lived the highs and lows of the PhD journey, and come out the other side. (It really will end, I promise!)

I put all of my experience to work when I edit your dissertation. As an experienced **researcher**, I understand the research process and what the PhD is designed to do; as an **editor**, I make sure that your ideas are expressed as clearly as possible; as an **educator**, I know what your examiners are looking for (and what will annoy them!); and as a **writer**, I understand how hard it can be to get words on the page.



# HOW I CAN HELP

I would love to help you:

- format your dissertation (including ensuring all headings are clear and consistent and producing a Table of Contents)
- get your spelling, grammar, and punctuation into tip-top shape
- flag anything that looks a bit odd and needs your review, and
- check your references to make sure they are all formatted according to your chosen style.

The bad news (so sad, I know!) is that I'm not allowed to:

- rewrite any part of your dissertation (though I can suggest if a certain sentence or section might need more work to make it clearer)
- restructure your dissertation (though I can flag if a restructure might help improve the flow of your writing)
- fact-check or otherwise engage with the content of your dissertation, or
- convert your references from one style to another, or format them from scratch.



# THE EDITING PROCESS

01

## Share

Send me a copy of your complete draft dissertation (hooray!) along with your university's style guide (if there is one) and let me know if there's anything in particular you're worried about.

02

## Plan

Once I've had a quick read of your work, we'll set up a Zoom or a phone call and make a plan of action.

03

## Copy-edit

I work my way through your dissertation. I'll make tracked edits in Word so you can see exactly what I've done and I'll leave comments if I have any queries or suggestions.

04

## Final draft

Now it's your turn! Have a look at the edits I've made and decide if you want to keep the changes or not. Then, you'll work with your supervisors to get a final draft together.

05

## Proofread

You send the final draft back to me and I proofread it. I address any final things that look a bit wonky and need tidying up so you make the best possible impression on your examiner.

06

## Delivery

I send you a copy of the tracked dissertation as well as a clean copy. As before, it's up to you what changes you'd like to keep. And then ohmygoodness it's time to submit your dissertation.

07

## Wait anxiously

Now we wait anxiously for the examiners' reports to come back. This is a good time to relax, catch up on some telly... or we can start thinking about how to pitch your dissertation to publishers.

08

## Amendments

Reports come back, and you put together a plan of action with your supervisors. I read over any new text and help you update the formatting and things like the Table of Contents.

09

## Submit

You submit your final dissertation and we all do a small but heartfelt happy/relieved dance. (I'll be doing mine in private - there's a reason I'm an editor and not a dancer.)



# PRICING

**Copy-edit + proofread + amendments = AUD\$5,500**

Now, I know that the package is expensive. And I know that most universities offer very little by way of financial support for editing, which is really unhelpful. But I treat every PhD that I edit as though it's my own. (Actually, I treat it better than my own - my dissertation was riddled with spelling errors, which is especially embarrassing now I'm a professional editor.)

Taking this approach means your dissertation and I spend **many hours** hanging out together. I go through your work in full multiple times to make sure I pick up on all the little tweaks that need to be made and I don't deliver the final draft to you until I'm sure I've done everything I can to make your dissertation positively **shine**.

This is why I don't offer copy-editing or proofreading as stand-alone services any more. I feel strongly about dedicating myself to each dissertation that I work on, and offering the copy-editing + proofreading + amendments bundle is, for the time being at least, the only way I can do that.

*Are you doing your PhD by publication or have a shorter dissertation (such as for your Honours or Master's degree)? Drop me an email at [cait@hamiltoneditorial.com](mailto:cait@hamiltoneditorial.com) and we can chat pricing.*

