Finding Theses

Oxford theses

Use SOLO ([http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/)) to search for:

1. Theses in your research area
   - think about your combination of search terms, e.g. find Theses containing the words: (youth OR young OR juvenile) AND crim*

2. Theses from your department or faculty
   - e.g. Social Policy and Intervention
   - has your department/faculty changed its name over time?

3. Theses on your degree course
   - e.g. M.Phil. Economics
   - NB. Be careful with the spelling/punctuation of the degree qualification: entering “MPhil” will produce different results from entering “M.Phil.”.

4. Theses supervised by your supervisor
   - e.g. Roger Goodman

British, Irish and North American Theses

Use ProQuest’s [Dissertations and Theses](https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php) databases to search for theses in your research area from the UK, Ireland and North America.

1. Connect to Databases A-Z at [https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php](https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php).

2. In the subject drop down menu select Theses and Dissertations.

3. Select ProQuest and Dissertations and Theses Global (full text plus UK and Ireland abstracts). This database includes these sub-databases which can be searched together:
   - ProQuest Dissertations and Theses UK and Ireland
     [Abstracts and Indexes only – All Subjects, UK and Ireland]
   - ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global
     [Full Text – All Subjects, North America ]

4. The default search option is a basic search. To perform a more effective search with structured search terms, click on Advanced search above the search box.

5. Type your search terms into the boxes provided, making sure you use a separate line for each search concept, using OR to combine synonyms on each line and truncation marks (*) to find variant endings. Use double quotation marks (“ ”) to search for a phrase.
For example, for the research question: “In what ways does participation in the ERASMUS exchange programme impact on students’ intercultural learning?”, you might type the keywords:

ERASMUS OR “study* abroad” OR “student* exchange*”
intercultur* OR multicultur*
learn* OR sensitiv* OR aware*

6. The right-hand drop down menu defaults to search Anywhere. If searching the Full-Text database, this also searches the full-text where available. To make your search more focused:
   - Try changing this to Anywhere except full text – ALL for each line.
   - Try changing this to Abstract – AB for each line.
   - Try changing this to Document title – TI for each line.

7. You have a range of options to limit your search, for example by date, language or type of degree. Click on “Modify search” to return to the results screen.
   - To filter by a specific thesis supervisor, use the Advisor search box, or click on Look up advisor for a drop-down list. Please note - the advisor search only works for North American theses. It does not work for UK and Irish theses.
   - To restrict results to full-text only, tick the box to Limit to: Full text.

8. Does ProQuest have the full text of all the theses in the results list? If not:
   - Try searching EThOS (http://ethos.bl.uk/) for the full text of UK theses. To find a specific thesis, enter the author’s surname and a couple of keywords from the title.

   It is also possible to do a broad subject search on EThOS by entering keywords. However, bear in mind that EThOS contains fewer records than ProQuest and has a less sophisticated search engine. For example, it does not accept the Boolean operator “OR” or the truncation symbol (*). You will therefore need to perform a simple search e.g.: ERASMUS AND Education

   - Try finding the full text in the Institutional Repository for the awarding university, e.g.:
     i. ORA (Oxford), http://ora.ox.ac.uk/
     ii. Apollo (Cambridge) https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/
     iii. Find others at The Directory of Open Access Repositories – OpenDOAR http://www.opendoar.org/