

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Why the Interest in Doctoral Writing?	2
	Shaping the Book	3
	Navigating the Book	4
	References	5
2	Being and Developing Writers	7
	Supervision and Developing Student Writing	8
	Managing Supervisors and Doctoral Writing: Some Advice for Candidates	8
	Sharing Our Practice: Writing and Higher Degree Research Supervision	9
	Doctoral Writing and Decision-Making in the First Few Months	11
	Bad Supervision? Or Bad Communication? Avoiding Complaints in Supervision—The Importance of Good Communication	12
	Can You Care Too Much? Supervisors, Students and Writing in the Academy	15
	Controlling the Emotion of Doctoral Writing and Supervision	18
	What Level of English Competence Is Enough for Doctoral Students?	18
	Writing Support from Generic Learning Advisors Compared to Supervisors	20
	Doctoral Writing: The Value of Learning Advisors	20
	Doctoral Writing: Who's Who in (and Outside) Your Zoo?	21
	Who Is Helping Your Doctoral Student Write Their Thesis?	22
	Feedback on Doctoral Writing	24
	Feedback in Doctoral Writing: Why Is It so Different?	24
	Why Do Supervisors Contradict Themselves? Development of Feedback	25
	I Just Don't Get It! Why Don't You like My Writing?	26

Doctoral Writing and Feedback: Moving on from Negative Emotion	27
Disembodied Feedback on Writing	29
Not Getting What You Need?: Strategies for Maximising Success from Feedback	30
Tough Self-scrutiny as a Doctoral Writing Tool	31
Managing Feedback on Writing in Team Supervision	32
‘Sending—Ready or Not’: Feedback Practices and Predilections	34
Emotion and Identity in Doctoral Writing and Supervision	35
Doctoral Writing: Why Bother?	35
Mental Health, Doctoral Study and Supervision: Can ‘Troubles with Writing’ Mask Other Problems?	37
Is Dropping Out Failure? Je ne regrette rien	39
When Research Moves Too Close: Maintaining Awareness of Boundaries	40
Mother Guilt and the Ph.D.	42
Finishing the Ph.D.—Or What Happens to Otherwise Normal People in the Last Few Months of the Ph.D.?	43
Disaster and Change of Plan for Doctoral Writing	46
‘Help with Writing’ Versus ‘Learning About Writing’	47
References	48
3 Managing Productivity	51
Writing Groups and Retreats	52
Writing Groups, Writing Retreats, Boot Camps and Other Social Writing Events for Doctoral Writers	52
Writing in the Company of Others: ‘Shut up and Write!’, AcWriMo, Boot Camps, Writing Retreats and Other Fun Activities	53
‘Sit Down and Do Your Work!’ Disciplining the Writer	55
Writing Retreats aka Binge Writing: Luxury-Class Doctoral Writing	57
Thesis Writing Boot Camp for Doctoral Writers	58
Experimenting with Academic Writing Month (AcWriMo)	59
Writing Processes	60
Questions Students Ask	60
Writing, Reviewing and Editing—Not to Be Confused	62
Reverse Engineering of Writing: Reading to See How ‘Good, Interesting Writing’ Works	63
The Writing Process: Agonisingly Slow?	65
The Power of Walking	66

Habits and Time Management	67
Getting the Right/Write Habit	67
New Year's Resolutions for Doctoral Writers	68
How Long Does It Take to Write a Thesis?	70
Writing and Time-Scheduling	71
Writing Spaces—Where Are Theses Written?	73
Starting Again: Picking up the Pieces After an Extended Break from Writing	74
Just Do It! (and Delete the 'Publish or Perish' Warning)	76
Writing Up—An Everyday Job	77
Motivation, Pleasure, Humour	78
Olympic Endurance and Doctoral Writing: On Motivation	78
Real Writing Aversion: Can It Be Overcome?	79
Sin, the Motivator	80
Is Doctoral Writing Doing You Harm?	81
A Sense of Humour Towards Doctoral Writing?	84
Writing as ... Metaphors for Loving Writing	85
Writing Pleasure: Space and People	88
References	90
4 Crafting Writing: Clarity, Style and Voice	93
Clarity from Clean Simplicity	93
Balancing Simplicity and Complexity in Doctoral Writing	93
Take Your Time—Or Get to the Point?	94
Sword's Exercises for Doctoral Style	96
Personal Style and Communication	97
A Question of Language Competence or Writing Style?	97
Writing as Social Negotiation	98
Personalising the Thesis: Incentive to Writing It?	99
Where's This Going? Metadiscourse for Readers and Writers	100
Issues of Word Choice	102
Precision with Word Choice in Doctoral Writing	102
Saying 'Says' in Research Writing	103
Widening Vocabulary in Academic Writing? Or Wider Reader Access?	104
Politics of Pronouns	105
Knowing When to Use 'I' in Research Writing: Cold-Calling Knowledge Claims	105
Student/Supervisor Difference with Writing Choices Courtesy of the Generic 'He'	107
Who Produces Academic Writing: 'I', 'the Researcher', 'This Study', 'This Thesis'...?	108

Grammar and Punctuation	109
Grammar for Research Writing: Nouns and Verbs	109
Comma, Stop	110
A Second Helping of Commas, Anyone?	111
Voice	112
‘Insider Persona’ in Voice: Practical Suggestions for Doctoral Writers	112
Authorial Voice, or ‘Putting on the Ritz’	114
Voice and Emphasis in Doctoral Writing	116
Voicing Writing by Talking: Exploring the Link Between Body and Text.	117
Editing and Plagiarism: Meeting Expectations	118
The Examiner-Perspective Lens for Doctoral Editing	118
Who Needs an Editor Anyway?	120
How Are We to Understand Plagiarism in Doctoral Writing?	121
Recycling Old Papers and Self-plagiarism—Is It a Sin?	123
References	124
5 Writing the Thesis	127
General Advice: Impact, Early Choices, Ethics, and Narrative	128
‘Impact’ Is Important for Published Researchers, But What Does It Mean for Doctoral Writers?	128
Research Writing Outside the Box	130
Defending Research Choices in Doctoral Writing: Getting the Defence Habit at the Start of the Research	131
Keeping the Public Out: No-Go Areas in Your Thesis	132
Thesis Writing: Process and Package	134
The Importance of Narrative	134
The Developing Thesis Proposal: Questions to Launch Doctoral Writing	136
Structure: Issues of Design	137
Scoping: Bean-Counting as a Step to Thesis Writing?	137
What’s the Formula for Writing a Thesis?	138
Research Storylines: Moving Beyond Mills and Boon	139
Insecure in a Good Way: Thesis Structure Changes Over Time	140
Leave It in or Delete It? Dilemmas in Writing the Research Story	141
The Bones of the Thesis: Structure and Articulation	142
Turning Facts into a Doctoral Story: The Essence of a Good Doctorate	142
Argument and Contribution	144
Structure as a Booster for the Argument	144

A Good Argument: The Thesis of the Thesis	145
Done All That Work—But Has This Thesis Really Got Anything to Say? Strategies to Regain Perspective on Research Contribution	146
Take-Home Message, or ‘What Was All That About?’	149
Theory, Critical Thinking and Data Analysis	150
Choosing the Right Theory Is Like Op-shopping	150
What Does It Mean to ‘Theorise’ Research?	151
Demonstrating Critical Analysis: A Paint-by-Numbers Approach	153
Swamped by Data? Time to Take Control and Manage All that Information	154
What to Do with ‘Leftover’ Data?	155
Specific Parts of the Thesis	156
Writing the Acknowledgements: The Etiquette of Thanking	156
Writing a Thesis Abstract that Will Impress a Potential Examiner . . .	157
How Long Is a Thesis Introduction? Changing Thesis Structures	159
The Literature Review for Beginners: Writing While Still Uncertain	160
Literature Reviews—Trust Yourself!	162
Literature Review: Hands on Hips or Smash and Grab?	163
Crafting Conclusions—More Than a Summary of Research	164
How to Make a Great Conclusion	165
My Questions Now: Preparing a Thesis Conclusion	167
The Last Word in Doctoral Writing: Mechanics of Last Sentence Rhetoric	168
Preparing Your Thesis for Submission: What to Look for When Editing at the Whole-of-Document Level	169
Reading Theses to Write a Thesis	171
Choosing the Examiner: It’s in Everyone’s Interests to Get Students Involved	172
References	174
6 Disseminating Research	177
Publishing Processes and Peer Review	177
Supervising Student Publishing During Doctoral Candidature	177
Journal Article or Book Chapter?	179
Peer Review: What’s the Fuss?	180
Reviewing Can Help, If You Want to Learn How to Publish	181
Reviewing Conundrums: Is This a MAJOR or MINOR Revision?	183
Sexism, Peer Review and Critical Thinking	184
Scholarly Editing and Networking	185

Co-authorship	186
Collaborative Writing: Practices and Strategies	186
‘Apologies—Running Late with Draft’: Obligation and Writing	188
What’s It Worth to You? Awarding Authorship Percentages	189
Career and Profile Building	190
Publishing During Doctoral Study—What Are the Benefits? or Why	
Would You Bother?	190
Doctoral Writing and Career Building	192
Academic Selfies, Self-promotion and Other Narcissistic	
Behaviours	193
Other Research Genres	196
How Do I Write Thee? Let Me Count the Ways	
(with Apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning)	196
Talking About Writing	198
Writing Text for Research Posters	199
Grant-Writing Season	201
References	202
7 Conclusion	205
References	206
Bibliography	207
Index	217