

Palgrave Macmillan is a global academic publisher, part of the Macmillan Group, with strengths in the social sciences, humanities, and business. We publish textbooks, monographs, and trade books on an international scale.

Here are some insider publishing tips for prospective authors looking to publish their PhD thesis with us:

1. Prospective authors should bear in mind that a PhD thesis needs intensive reworking and re-writing in order to be published as a monograph on our list. So, don't start out with a lengthy literature review as most readers and experts in your field will have already read those same books!
2. In order to consider your proposal for publication, please include the following documents:
 - a) Palgrave Proposal Form with chapter abstracts
 - b) 2 fully revised sample chapters
 - c) Full CV to demonstrate your credentials and a clear academic career path
3. When submitting your book proposal, do some first brainstorming on how your book can be marketed and sold in a competitive arena:
 - a) Market/Audience – who will read your book?
 - b) Competition – what other books are already out there? Be aware of competing titles because why publish in an area that no-one is interested in writing about?
 - c) Sales Hooks – how is my research/book special?
 - d) Placement – how
4. What comes next? Once you have submitted your proposal to Palgrave, your project will undergo the following four steps:
 - a) Initial comments from Editor
 - b) Review process
 - c) Revisions
 - d) Contract offer, if appropriate

How to Prepare a Book Proposal

If you do decide that publication in book form is most appropriate for your work, the next stage is to prepare a book proposal. It is important to think of the book as a separate entity from the thesis at this early stage and to plan a structure with the points below in mind, aiming for a coherent narrative flow. You may, for example, need to add chapters or to omit them completely.

Some publishers require authors to send one or more sample chapters for external review with the proposal. You may choose to take the chapters you feel will need least revision from your thesis, but it is often more effective to send a revised chapter. The first chapter is ideal, but may be the most difficult to rewrite for publication, in which case try working on a substantive middle chapter instead. Do not send the complete thesis, unless the publisher specifically requests it. It can be very useful to ask a colleague with publishing experience or your PhD supervisor to read through the proposal and sample material before you submit it to the publisher.

The Process of Rewriting

Once you have signed a contract with the publisher and agreed upon a deadline, the real work begins! The following are general guidelines:

- Look closely at the books you have found most persuasive in terms of scholarship and most engaging as reading experiences and work out what makes them successful. Be ambitious: try to write the book you would most want to read about your subject.
- Keep your audience constantly in mind. It is important to write for the widest potential audience, rather than just for those engaged in similar research areas. Do not assume that readers will be as familiar with the literature as you are. The opening chapter is the reader's "way in" to the argument. It must be as accessible and compelling as you can make it.

- Think about the narrative flow of the book. Your goal is to tempt readers to read from beginning to end of the book. Many PhDs have a more “stop-start” approach, in which a point is made and then backed up with evidence. It may be possible to reduce some of this evidence, or to confine it to endnotes.
- In general you should aim to cut out or significantly reduce your review of the literature. Instead, relevant literature should be cited at appropriate points throughout the text.
- Substantial methodology sections should be omitted. You may discuss your methodology in the introduction or opening chapter of the book, or talk about it briefly as you present your results
- In general, your conclusions should be developed and summed up throughout the book rather than towards the end. A strong introduction should indicate clearly where you are going.

And some technical points:

- Keep footnotes and endnotes to a minimum
- Remember to remove all references to 'this thesis' or 'this dissertation'. We advise authors not to mention the book's origins as a PhD thesis in the preface or acknowledgments, as this information is often repeated in catalogue listings for the book and it can, unfortunately, be detrimental to sales.
- Approval of quotes from interviewees will need to be obtained if they were not aware at the time of the interview that their comments would appear in a published format. Alternatively, these quotes could be made anonymous or omitted altogether
- Be aware that not all illustrations/tables/diagrams are suitable for book publication.
- Remember that you will need permission to quote copyright material. The “fair-dealing” rule covers single quotations of up to 400 words, or multiple quotations from a work of not more than 200 words each and 800 words in total, for the purposes of review and criticism.
- Permission must be sought for longer quotations, illustrations or diagrams taken from other published sources, quotations of lyrics or poetry of more than one line and any epigraphs.
- During the process of fine-tuning a PhD for publication it can be very valuable to have chapters read informally by colleagues or other contacts. An external eye can be helpful in pointing out omissions, suggesting new arguments, and in reassuring you about the quality of the work. In addition, if English is not your first language it is highly desirable that you find a native speaker with expertise in your field to check through the final manuscript.