



How to Publish your Thesis: Checklist

Get moving!	Many disciplines are highly time-relevant, and much of your PhD may be out of date in five years' time! Begin the publication journey as soon as your degree is conferred, or even once you have submitted.
Approach	Treat the publication process as a project. Create a project plan, a timeline and remember to organise your work and other documents effectively and efficiently. You will know what works best for you, but there are many internet resources offering project management tools that can help you to stay organised, focused and motivated.
Review	Review your thesis for one focus that will translate well to a book. This may not even be the main theme of your thesis, but is one that will excite and engage both you and your potential readers. It may be a sub-theme that you did not get to develop more fully in your PhD.
Rewrite	Rewrite your thesis substantially. Look back to the books that both had academic merit and were well written, engaging and thought provoking. Consider your potential audience in relation to writing style. Do not be afraid to develop your own 'voice': the best authors always sound like themselves.
Restructure	Part of the rewriting process is considering the structure of your text in relation to how it would work best as a book. You might rearrange chapters thematically, chronologically or by other relevant methods.
Make it perfect	Once you have rewritten your thesis, you will need to edit it. You can do this yourself, ask a skilled friend or engage a professional editor. Editing is an essential part of the writing and publication process. The more polished your manuscript is, the more likely publishers are to engage with it.
Research	Thoroughly research academic publishers, both big and small, to determine the ones that best fit your discipline, writing style and potential audience. Be very wary of 'vanity' publishers who ask you to pay for producing your book.
Write a proposal	Follow the publisher's guidelines to write and submit a book proposal.
Submit and wait!	Submit your proposal, along with the appropriate number of chapters, to one publisher at a time. Use project management tools to keep track of the publishers you have submitted to, the date of submission and when you can expect a reply. Most publishers take around three months to respond.
Keep writing	Writing is a skill. The more you write, the better you will become. Many universities offer academic writing workshops; make the most of these resources.
