



DoctorateHub  
EMPOWERING THE DOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN YOU

DOCTORATEHUB | 2026

ADVANCED COURSE / BROCHURE

# THE VIVA PREPARATION – GETTING READY FOR THE VIVA!





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Location: Online

Available formats: self-study, fully tutored and on demand feedback.

### Study segments

Research methods and tools covered or trained in the course: Qualitative Research, Quantitative Research

Data collection techniques covered or trained in the course: Artefact mining, Content Analysis, Conversations , Document Analysis, Mind Mapping, Observations, Organisational Records, Questionnaire, Reports, Rich Pictures, Secondary Data Review

Course is suitable for the following thesis development stages: -

### Course information

The Viva preparation course will prepare doctoral students for their final Viva. The course will allow you to understand the strengths and weaknesses of your work, and to prepare to discuss both.

The Viva Preparation course is designed to help you prepare to engage in critical reflection and familiarize yourself on how to interpret and respond to critics within an academic discourse in readiness for your Viva. The course will allow you to understand the strengths and weaknesses of your work, and prepare to discuss both. To provide a truly authentic Viva experience each Task includes a 45-minute oral presentation and discussion exercise.

The Viva is an oral examination that consists of a highly critical and stimulating discourse across two examiners and the doctoral candidate. The Viva Preparation course works through the various areas you, as a doctoral student, can expect to be covered in the Viva. Areas such as scene setting and introduction of the research, literature review, methodology, data collection and findings, analysis and evaluation, presentation of the results, along with the actionability of the research and why it mattered. The course closes with a final elevator pitch style full presentation of the research project to demonstrate and apply the learnings from the previous tasks.

The Viva Preparation course fosters both reflections-in-action and on-action. Reflections-in-action will be promoted through the oral presentation and discussion. To further nurture





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reflections-on-action each video-call is recorded, and participants are asked to transcribe the recording to once again look at the questions, their answers, and the feedback and tips received. Based on these transcripts, participants are then asked to write up possible ways to act on the feedback and tips received, and subsequently commented by the course tutor.

The Viva Preparation course is rich in double-loop feedback and therefore ideal in your preparation for your final acid test, the Viva itself.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course you will:

1. Have gained practice on how to present and defend your thesis;
2. Understand how to interpret and react to critical and probing question;
3. Have learnt about the do's and don'ts on critical engagement and research presentation;
4. Get the 'make or break' experience within a safe environment.

### Authors

Dr Andreas Meiszner

I am one of the DoctorateHub's Co-founders with a particular focus on strategic development and building up of the various DoctorateHub support services that we provide.

I have been a portfolio worker for most parts of my career and I am constantly looking for opportunities where to apply my knowledge and analytical skills, which also lead to the DoctorateHub back in 2016.

Since 2012, I have tutored, mentored and coached beyond 500 professional doctoral students (mid to seniors, aged 35 to 70) both with the University of Liverpool Management School's Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) program (UK), and since 2016 also with DoctorateHub. This allowed me to understand how to tackle problems at scale, be it the tame, the complex, or the wicked. 500+ students also implies 500+ workplace-based problems which I had the chance to look at. And while working with such an array of problems allows for quite some learning, it also has shown to me that very often it is quite exhaustive for such grown up and seasoned research novices. In response to this, we thus decided to set up the DoctorateHub, so





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to provide training, mentoring, and coaching services to all those that struggle to get their workplace-based issues identified, analysed, understood, written up in a thesis, and ultimately resolved.

In addition to this, I am also an active research fellow who has an interest in applied research, have more than a decade of global experience as a contract researcher in the areas of Innovation, ICT and the Internet, Education, Management, and Economics. I have a track record as Principal Investigator in the development and management of research, training and capacity building projects within Europe and across the globe; managing in-house teams and globally distributed external research, development and training teams, and have worked for a number of leading academic institutions, such as the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), who has been ranked as one of the global top 3 institutes in its domain next to Harvard, MIT, Stanford and the London School of Economics.

As for my educational background, I obtained my PhD in 2011 from The Open University (UK) for work carried out at the Institute of Educational Technologies and that is titled 'The Emergence of Free / Open Courses - Lessons from the Open Source Movement'. I am also holding three higher education degrees in management from universities in France, Germany and The Netherlands, and with majors in 'International Management' and in 'Human Resources and Organizational Management'.

Prof. Dr. Steven McCabe

I've been an academic since 1987 when I started teaching economics. Among other subjects taught, I have lectured in business and management, strategy and research methods. As well as authoring articles, chapters and conference papers, I have published seven books, the most recent of which were *Exploring the Green Economy* and *Green Manufacturing* both published by Bite-Sized Books, London in, respectively, July and October of 2021.

One of my main roles was as Associate Professor with responsibility as director of research degrees in business involving oversight of all doctoral programmes including the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). I was also involved as a tutor for the online DBA programme for Liverpool Laureate and participated in the residency workshops for students undertaking research for their thesis.





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Research, though at times may cause frustration due to the challenges, ultimately brings joy in examining phenomena that's intriguing and, significantly, not adequately described in the vast array of literature dedicated to the way in which organisations operate. The key component of organisations – people – may be idiosyncratic, which defies prediction based on elegant models, but can, if sufficiently motivated, be creative and innovative.

My own PhD research, based on studying quality improvement techniques in twelve UK organisations demonstrated the huge latent potential that undoubtedly exists in every organisation. Participative Action Research, of which I'm an enthusiastic advocate, can play a major role in untapping such potential.

**Dr. Steven McCabe**

Prof. Dr. Bostjan Gomiscek

I passed my viva many years ago, in 1993; however, this does not mean that I have forgotten how it was. I do recall it as it was just yesterday ... After my viva, I was part of many Viva exams, of my students at bachelor, masters and PhD level as well as examination & viva committee member of many other students' theses.

I started my research path as a young researcher at the University of Technology Vienna (Austria), where I obtained my PhD from and at University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). After finishing my PhD, I was working as a Researcher - free-lancer, when I was involved in several national and international interdisciplinary research projects working with research groups from different international universities and research institutions. My research career continued at the Austrian Academy of Science.

In 2003, I was appointed at University of Maribor, Slovenia as an Assistant Professor in the field of Quality Management and Environmental Protection Management, teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In 2006, I was elected to Associate Professor and in 2014 to Full Professor.

From 2014 to 2021, I was engaged with the University of Wollongong in Dubai, Faculty of Business as an active researcher, with strong engagement in the development and support of the UOWD research platform, the Higher Degree by Research (PhD/DBA) program.





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During all my university career time I was engaged in research and/or teaching which is evidenced in my publication record, which contains over 350 items, including journal publications, conference participations, teaching activities and other research and teaching related activities.

I hope I will be able to pass some of my experience to you and help you progressing faster in your PhD journey.





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## **DOCTORATE HUB IS YOUR PARTNER DURING YOUR DOCTORATE JOURNEY AND BEYOND**

### WHAT DOCTORATE HUB CAN DO FOR YOU

DoctorateHub is an exclusive and thriving community of practitioners that are on their pathway to establish themselves as doctoral scholars.

It is the space for professional doctoral practitioners to connect and to meet up in the virtual and physical world thereby allowing overcoming one of the main challenges of the doctoral journey: being on one's own without a peer network with whom to connect.

The doctoral journey is long and lonely, and unlike undergraduate and graduate programs, the doctoral students largely struggle to find and engage with doctoral peers. The DoctorateHub attempts to address this and to provide complementary support to professional doctoral practitioners that work towards a doctorate.

### CONTACT US

**DoctorateHub**

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