2. Typical structure and content of the dissertation

A. **Preliminary material**
   1. **Title page**
      Write the dissertation's title, your name, Candidate ID number, and supervisor's name.
   2. **Abstract** (100-150 words)
      Here, you will succinctly state the main research question and finding, and your main innovation or contribution. You can also mention the data and methodology you use.
   3. **Acknowledgements** (if necessary)
      Here, you could thank those that contributed to your achievement of writing an MSc dissertation, e.g., you supervisor, lecturers, classmates, friends, and/or family.
   4. **Contents list**
      An enumerated list showing the page containing the beginning of each section and subsection of the dissertation, the beginning of the reference list, and the beginning of the tables section, the figures section, and/or the appendix.

B. **Main text**
   1. **Introduction** (~ 1,000 words)
      Here, you will explain and motivate the focus of your study, briefly discuss your main research aim and questions, and place your study in a broad context.
   2. **Literature review** (~ 2,000 words)
      Your literature review should discuss the general literature (e.g., 10 papers) related to your area of research, and the specific literature (e.g., 5 papers) most closely related to what you do. You will discuss the general literature succinctly to set the stage, and you will discuss the specific literature in more detail. You may want to critically discuss the data and methodology these papers use and the results they find, and to point out similarities and differences between what they do and what you do.
   3. **Data description** (~ 2,000 words)
      In this section you will discuss the data you will use. For example, you will discuss how you collected the data, the cross-section and time period it spans, and how it compares with data used in similar studies. You will discuss the variables in the data, present a table with statistics for each variable (e.g., mean, median, variance, minimum, maximum), a table with pairwise correlations, and other tables or figures (e.g., time-series plots of variables) that will help readers understand the data.
   4. **Methodology presentation** (~ 2,000 words)
      You should discuss your choice of empirical methodology and justify its use versus alternatives (if any). You should present in detail the hypotheses you will test and the empirical models you will estimate.
   5. **Results** (~ 2,000 words)
      In this section, you will present and interpret the results from your estimation and hypotheses testing. You should highlight the main results, comment on whether they are consistent with the underlying theory, draw conclusions, and compare them with corresponding results from existing studies (if any). You should also conduct robustness and sensitivity checks and report their results.
   6. **Conclusion** (~ 1,000 words)
      You should summarise your dissertation, discuss the research question and answers you found, your contributions, any policy implications, and possible future work.

C. **Supplementary material**
   1. **Reference list**
      An alphabetical list of all the sources you have referenced in your dissertation.
   2. **Tables and figures**
   3. **Appendix** (if necessary)
      This section may contain details that are too technical to be included in the main text, detailed variable or symbol definitions, code listings, etc.

Formatting. Use Arial font, size 11, and 1.5 spacing between lines. Use one-inch margins top, bottom, left, and right. Use black ink throughout except (as necessary) in figures, and in any case make sure that your dissertation is readable if printed in black & white.

Word count. The dissertation's length (which includes everything EXCEPT the acknowledgments, figures, tables, references, and appendices) must not exceed 12,000 words; if it does, only the first 12,000 words will be marked. As noted previously, what matters is quality rather than quantity, and a dissertation of, e.g., 8,000 words could be a very good one.

Referencing style. Use the Harvard referencing system as explained above.