**AI Case Study: MA Dissertation Module**

**Key figures**

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**Nature of AI Engagement**

SLAS provides a series of study skills workshops aimed at masters level students to structure support for their research and writing skills in the dissertation module. The support culminates in a 24 hour writing retreat which is held off campus and provides students with a supportive environment to write-up their dissertation.

**Background**

This is a core module within the Masters programme and it is the only module in which all Masters’ level students in SMFA share a classroom. This means that it provides a unique opportunity for students from different disciplines within the creative arts to share their practice. The module convenors wanted SLAS to provide students with grounding on the basics of researching, critical thinking and writing. This is especially important as the MA attracts quite a high number of students for whom English is a second language, international students (who have to learn UK HE standards quickly) and mature students (who have to adjust to HE learning after a long break).

**Discussion/comments**

The sessions were developed by Louise frith from SLAS and Shona Illingworth. The workshops provided include Research skills, Critical writing, Referencing and Paraphrasing, Writing an annotated bibliography, Time management, Presentation skills, Writing café and Writing retreat. The sessions are timetabled and well attended.

“The support which Louise has given me has been great. At the beginning of the year I really didn't think I could write a dissertation, but throughout the year Louise has helped me to develop my writing skills and confident so I have actually quite enjoyed the process” Fiona Townend (Fine Art Mature student)

The workshops have highlighted SLAS role to MA students many of whom have booked 1:1 appointments with a SLAS adviser. This has been particularly taken up by mature students and international students who were the target for support in this intervention.
The writing retreat forms the end of the formal support which SLAS offers. This year 5 MA SMFA students attended the retreat. Students attending found it a very useful focus for their writing.

“I was really surprised at how much I was able to write in that time. I didn’t think I would be able to achieve so much. I is amazing what can be done when you focus” Segun Ayodeji (Music student).

Conclusion

The support which SLAS provides for the dissertation module for SMFA masters students has been running for 3 years. Each year the support which SLAS provides has been improved and the number of students enrolled on the module has increased. The Dean of Medway is now supporting the writing retreat by providing money to subside students’ places and it has been extended to all Medway post graduates not just SMFA students. The Module Convenors and Director of Research are very keen to continue working with SLAS on the dissertation module.